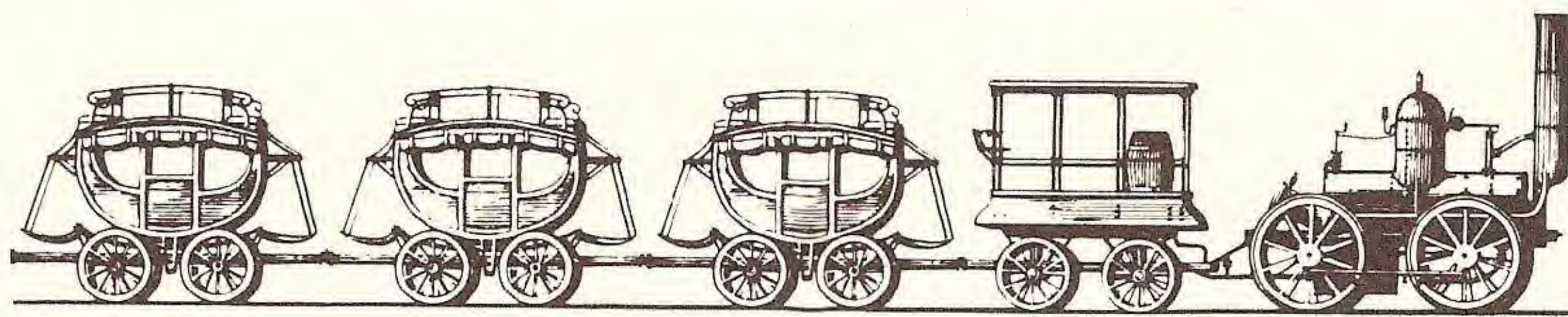


1959



# HIGHLIGHTS of AMERICAN RAILROAD HISTORY

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

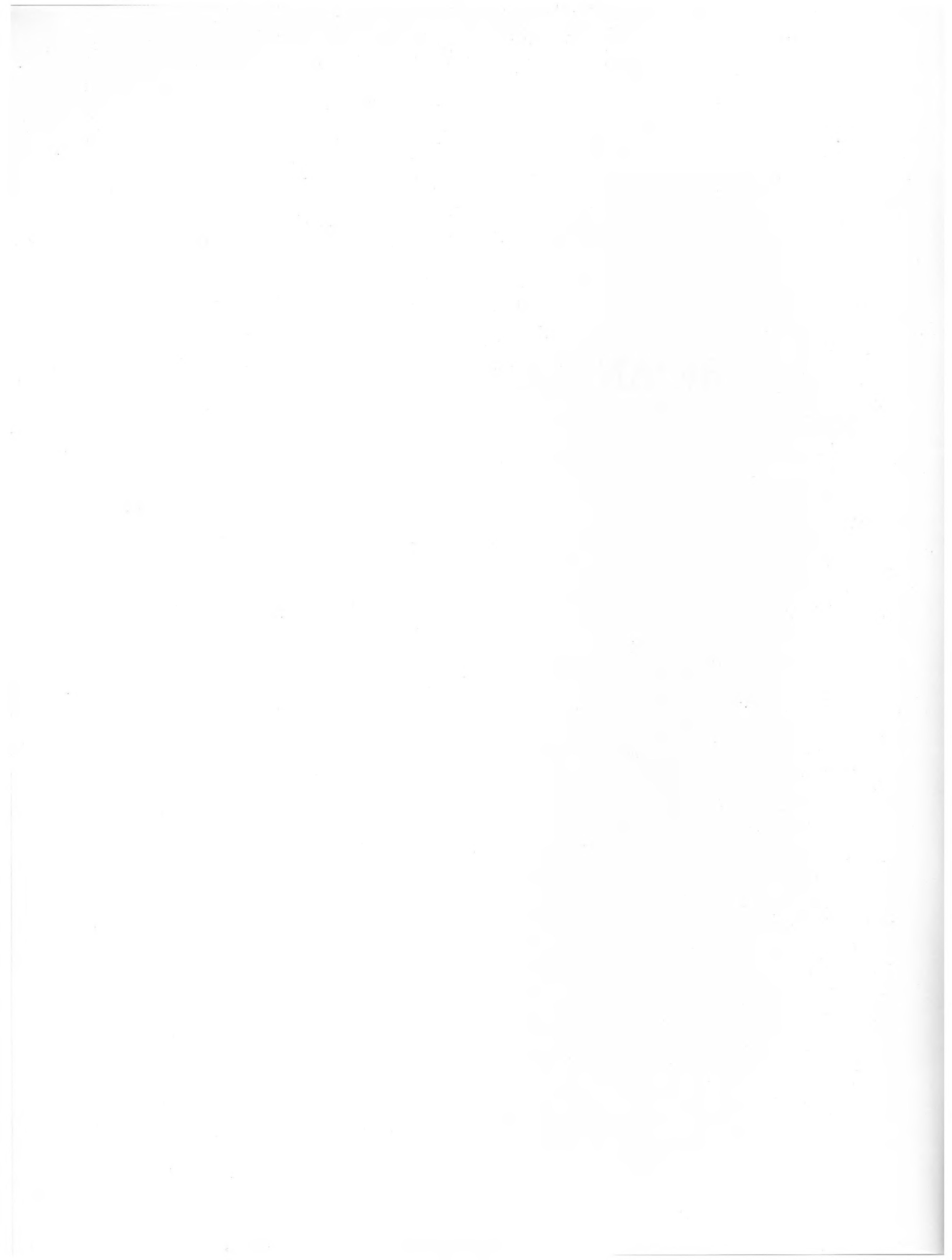




# HIGHLIGHTS OF AMERICAN RAILROAD HISTORY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LARY GAYNOR

Produced by  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS  
Transportation Building  
Washington, D. C.





# FOREWORD

In the history of nations and institutions, as well as in the lives of individuals, there are great and climactic moments which help to shape the destiny of men and the course of human events.

Likewise, in the history of railroads there are events and incidents which are clearly recognized as important milestones in the development of transportation. Other incidents, though perhaps without special historical significance, are of such a nature as to add life and color to the railroad story.

From hundreds of exciting events and interesting sidelights in American railroad history, seventy-two outstanding incidents were selected for pictorial treatment in the series of illustrations reproduced on the following pages.



# January

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY

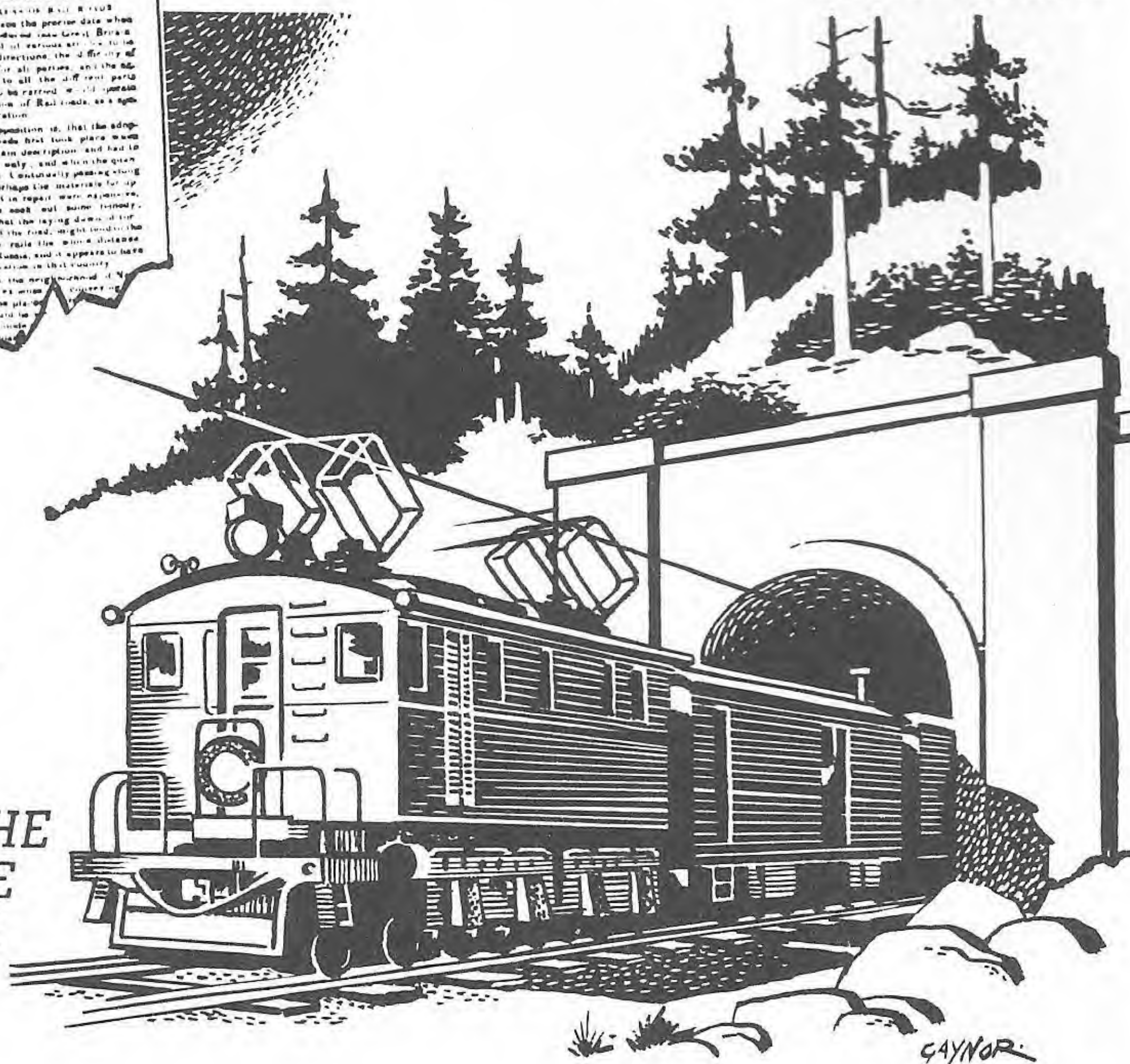


**FIRST RAILWAY SURVEY IN AMERICA CONDUCTED BY COLONEL JOHN STEVENS, AN EX-OFFICER OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, BETWEEN TRENTON AND RARITAN, NEW JERSEY, JANUARY, 1814.**



**JANUARY 2, 1832—FIRST ISSUE OF THE RAIL-ROAD JOURNAL—OLDEST AMERICAN RAILROAD PERIODICAL IN CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE—NOW RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES AND CARS.**

**LONGEST RAILWAY TUNNEL IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE, 7.79 MILES IN LENGTH, COMPLETED IN WASHINGTON STATE JANUARY 12, 1929. TUNNELING BEGAN AT BOTH ENDS. SO ACCURATE WERE THE INSTRUMENTATIONS THAT THE BORES, EACH NEARLY 4 MILES IN LENGTH, WERE OUT OF ALIGNMENT ONLY THREE INCHES VERTICALLY AND NINE INCHES HORIZONTALLY.**





# January IN RAILROAD HISTORY

FIRST FARE-PAYING PASSENGERS ON AN AMERICAN RAILROAD CARRIED AT BALTIMORE JANUARY 7, 1830.



FIRST THROUGH TRAIN COMPLETED RUN FROM CHICAGO TO OHIO RIVER AT CAIRO, JANUARY 8, 1855.



GROUND BROKEN AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, JANUARY 9, 1830, FOR FIRST RAILROAD IN THE UNITED STATES TO EMPLOY STEAM POWER REGULARLY.



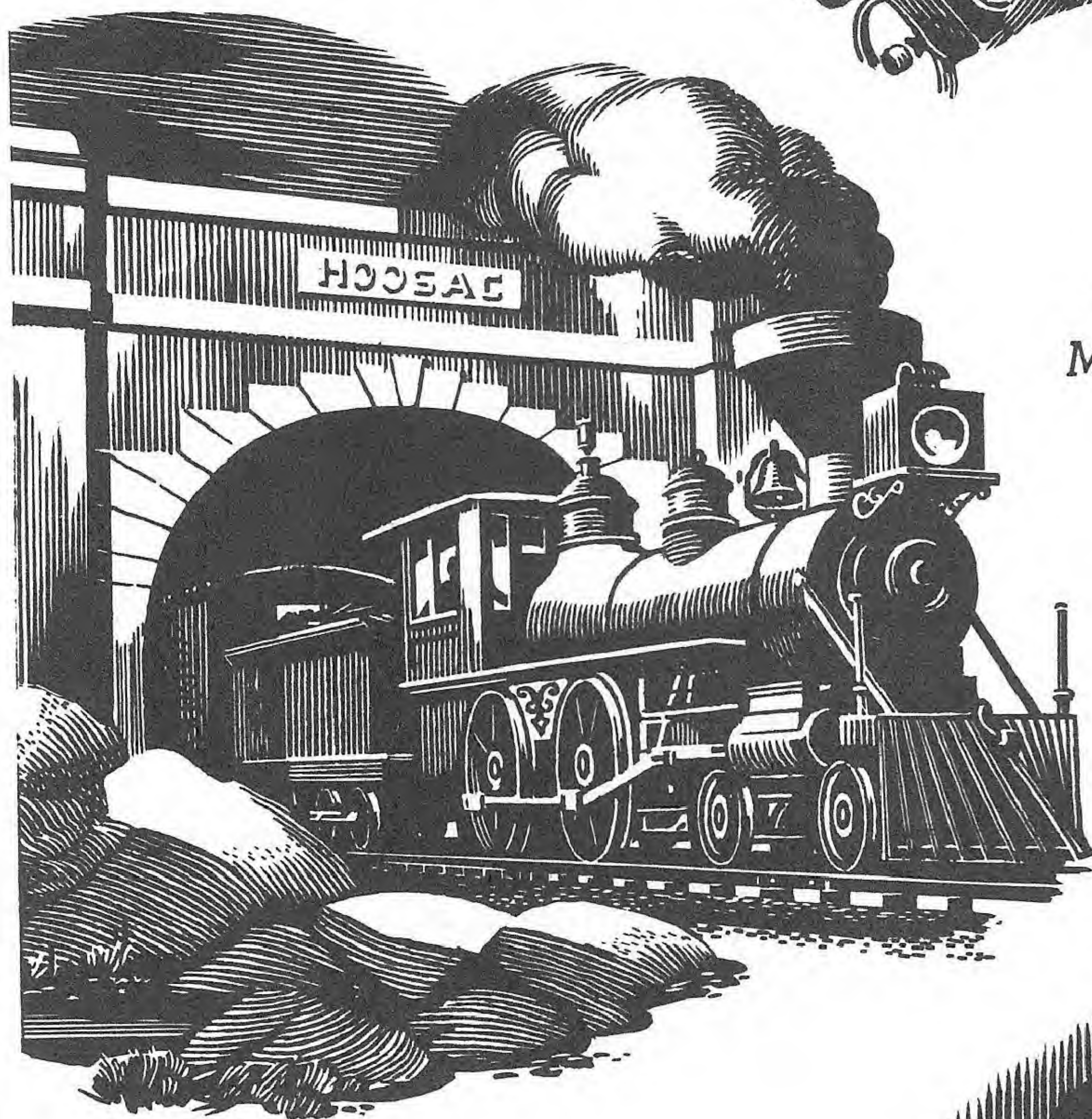
GAYNOR



# February

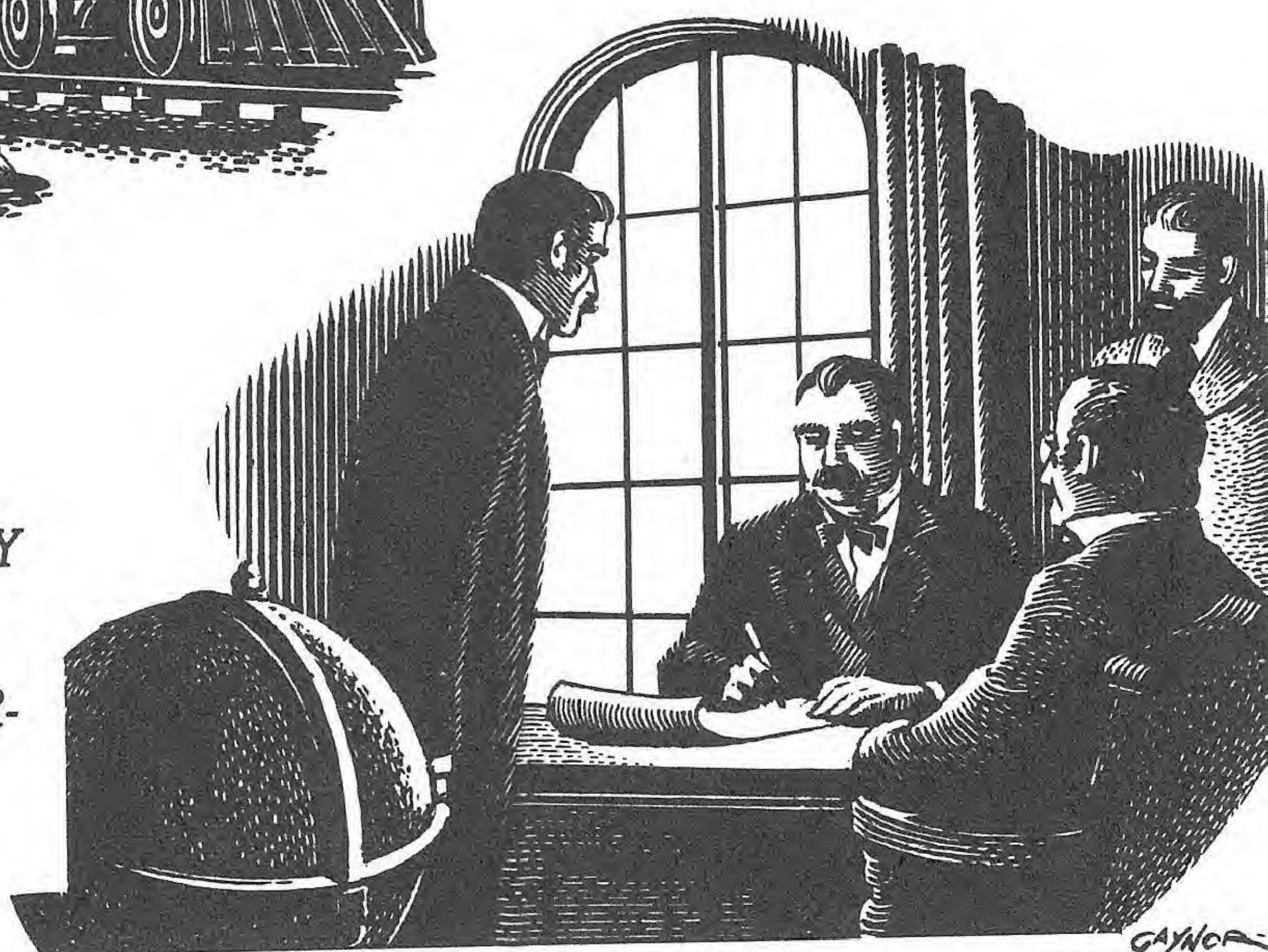
## IN RAILROAD HISTORY

GROUND BROKEN FEBRUARY 25, 1832, NEAR 32ND STREET AND FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, FOR THE CITY'S PIONEER RAILROAD, ORIGINALLY OPERATED BY HORSE POWER. BY 1839 THE RAILROAD EXTENDED FROM PRINCE STREET, NEAR BROOKLYN BRIDGE, TO HARLEM, A DISTANCE OF 8 MILES.



HOOSAC TUNNEL,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  MILES IN LENGTH, UNDER HOOSAC MOUNTAIN, MASSACHUSETTS, COMPLETED FEBRUARY 9, 1875. FOR 53 YEARS THIS WAS THE LONGEST RAILWAY TUNNEL IN THE UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND, ON FEBRUARY 4, 1887, SIGNED THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT CREATING THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.



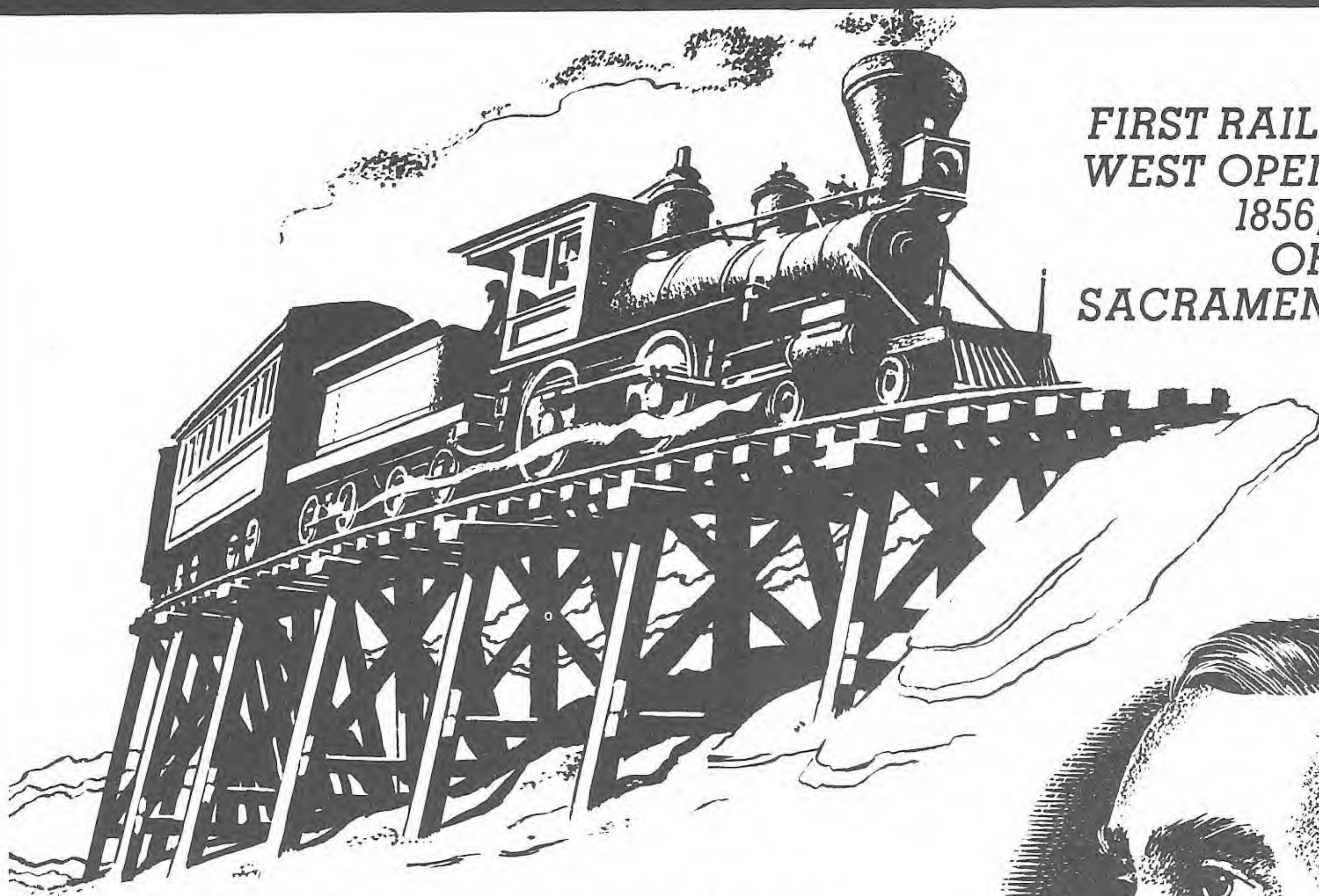


# February

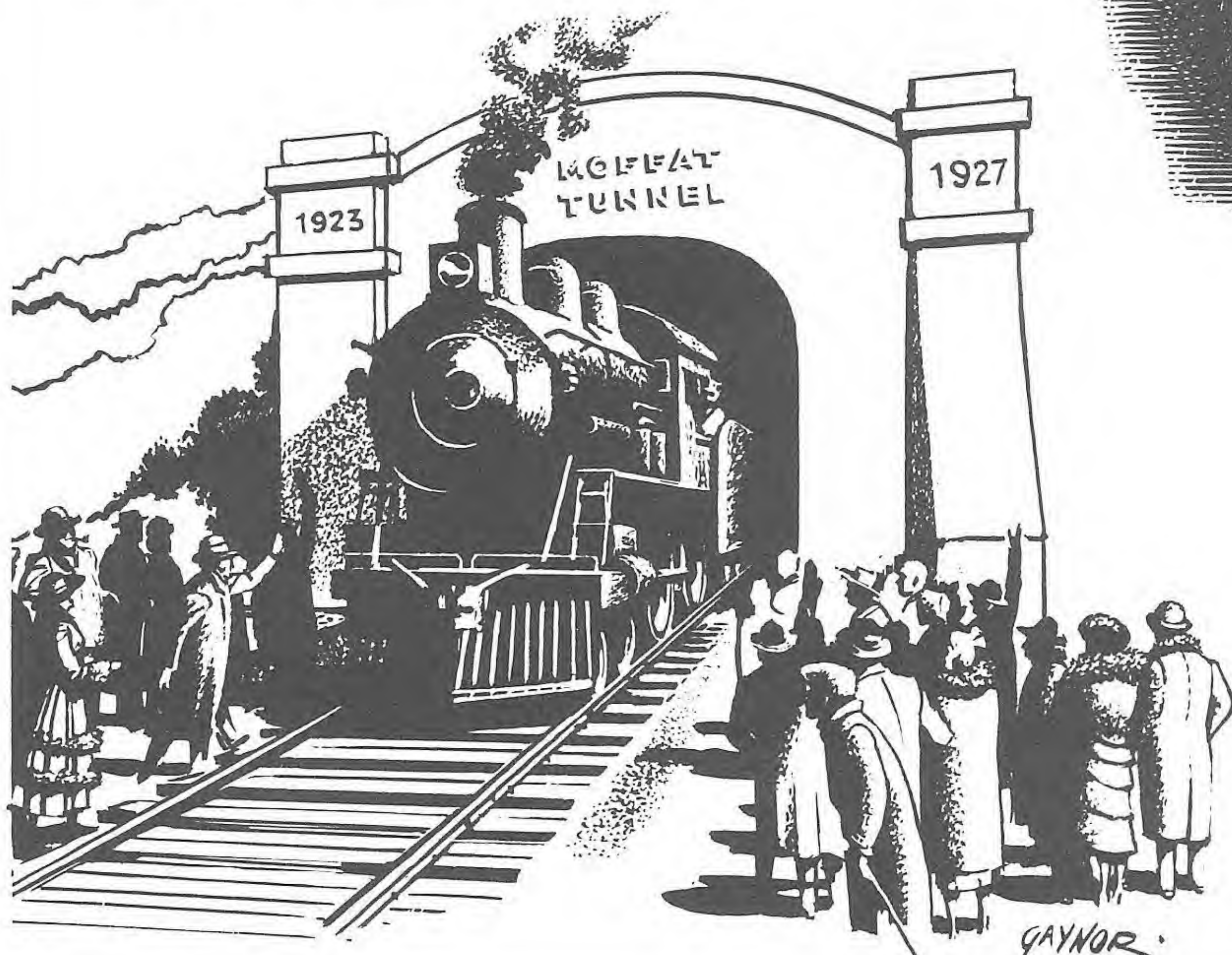
## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST RAILROAD IN THE FAR WEST OPENED FEBRUARY 22, 1856, FOR A DISTANCE OF 22 MILES OUT OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.



PULLMAN PALACE CAR COMPANY, FOUNDED BY GEORGE M. PULLMAN, CHARTERED IN ILLINOIS FEBRUARY 22, 1867, TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE DELUXE SLEEPING AND HOTEL CARS.



FIRST TRAIN PASSED THROUGH THE MOFFAT TUNNEL IN COLORADO — SECOND LONGEST RAILROAD TUNNEL IN THE UNITED STATES — FEBRUARY 26, 1928.



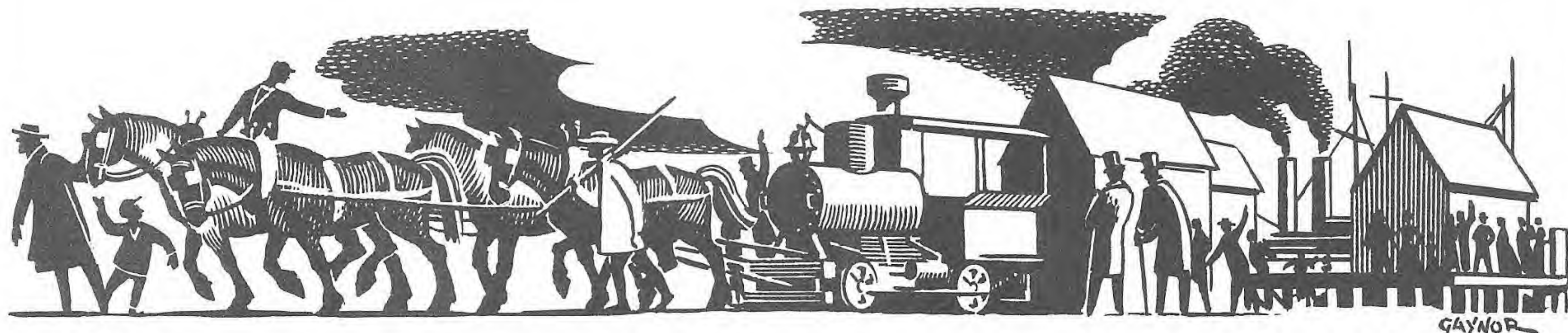
# March

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST TREE FELLED MARCH 10, 1830, IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIVE-MILE PONTCHARTRAIN RAILROAD—EXTENDING FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT NEW ORLEANS TO LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN. THIS WAS THE FIRST RAILROAD IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

FIRST RAILWAY EXPRESS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHED MARCH 4, 1839, IN THE CARPETBAG OF WILLIAM F. HARNDEN, TRAVELING BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BOSTON.



THE "OREGON PONY", FIRST LOCOMOTIVE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, ARRIVED AT PORTLAND, OREGON, MARCH 31, 1862.

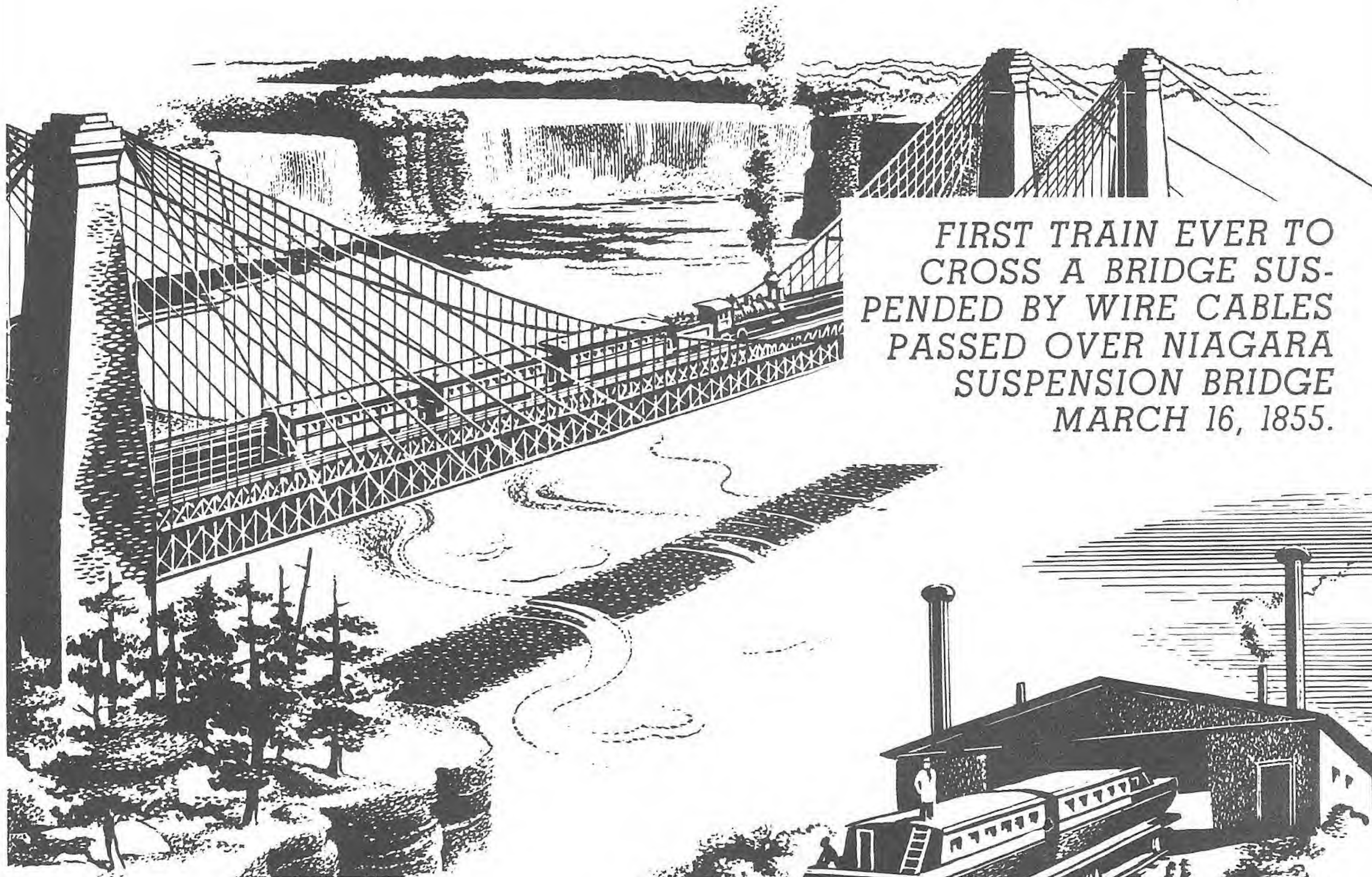


# March

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY

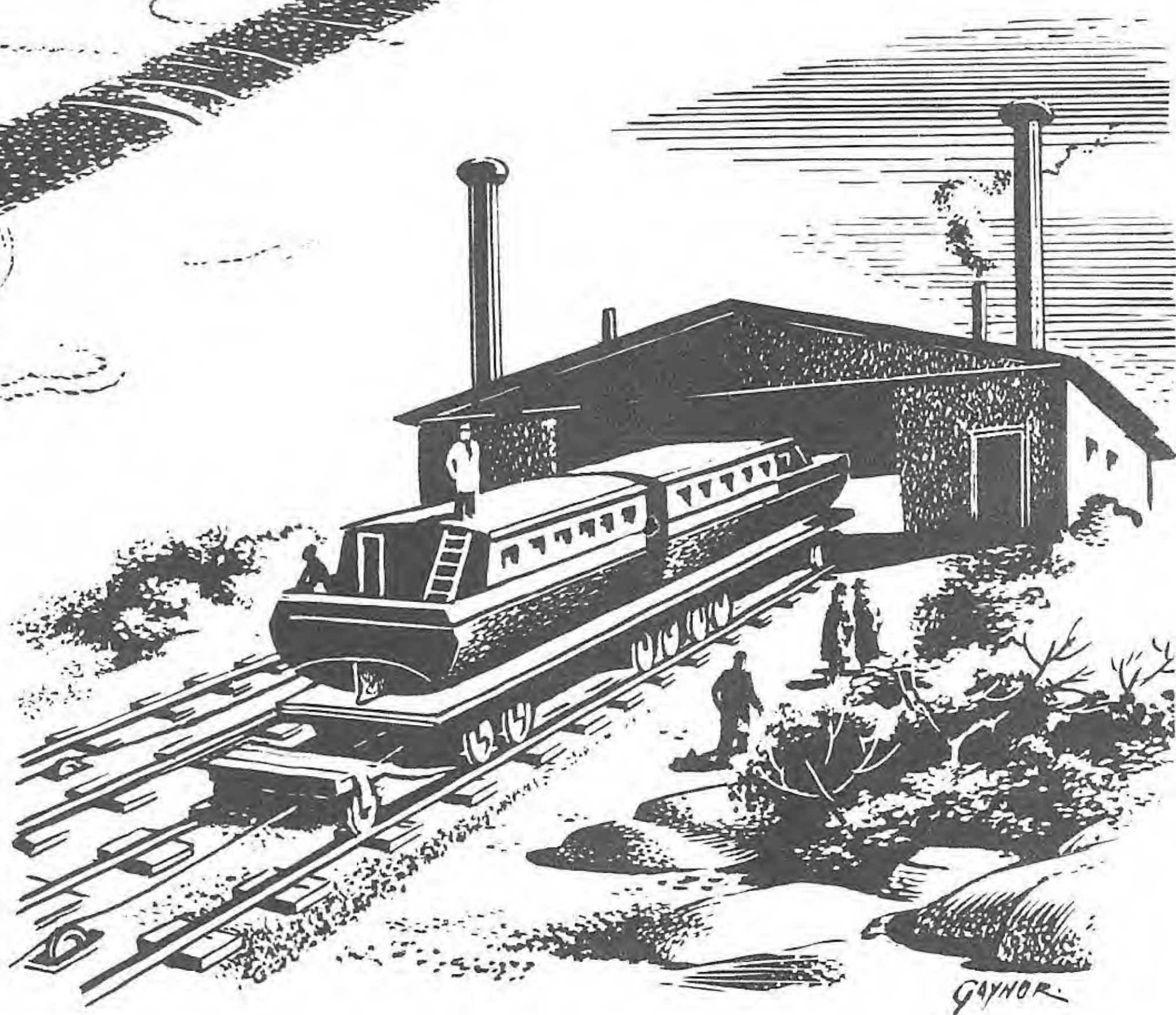


GRANITE RAILWAY,  
FIRST INCORPORATED  
COMPANY TO BUILD  
AND OPERATE A RAIL-  
ROAD IN THE UNITED  
STATES, CHARTERED  
IN MASSACHUSETTS  
MARCH 4, 1826.



FIRST TRAIN EVER TO  
CROSS A BRIDGE SUS-  
PENDED BY WIRE CABLES  
PASSED OVER NIAGARA  
SUSPENSION BRIDGE  
MARCH 16, 1855.

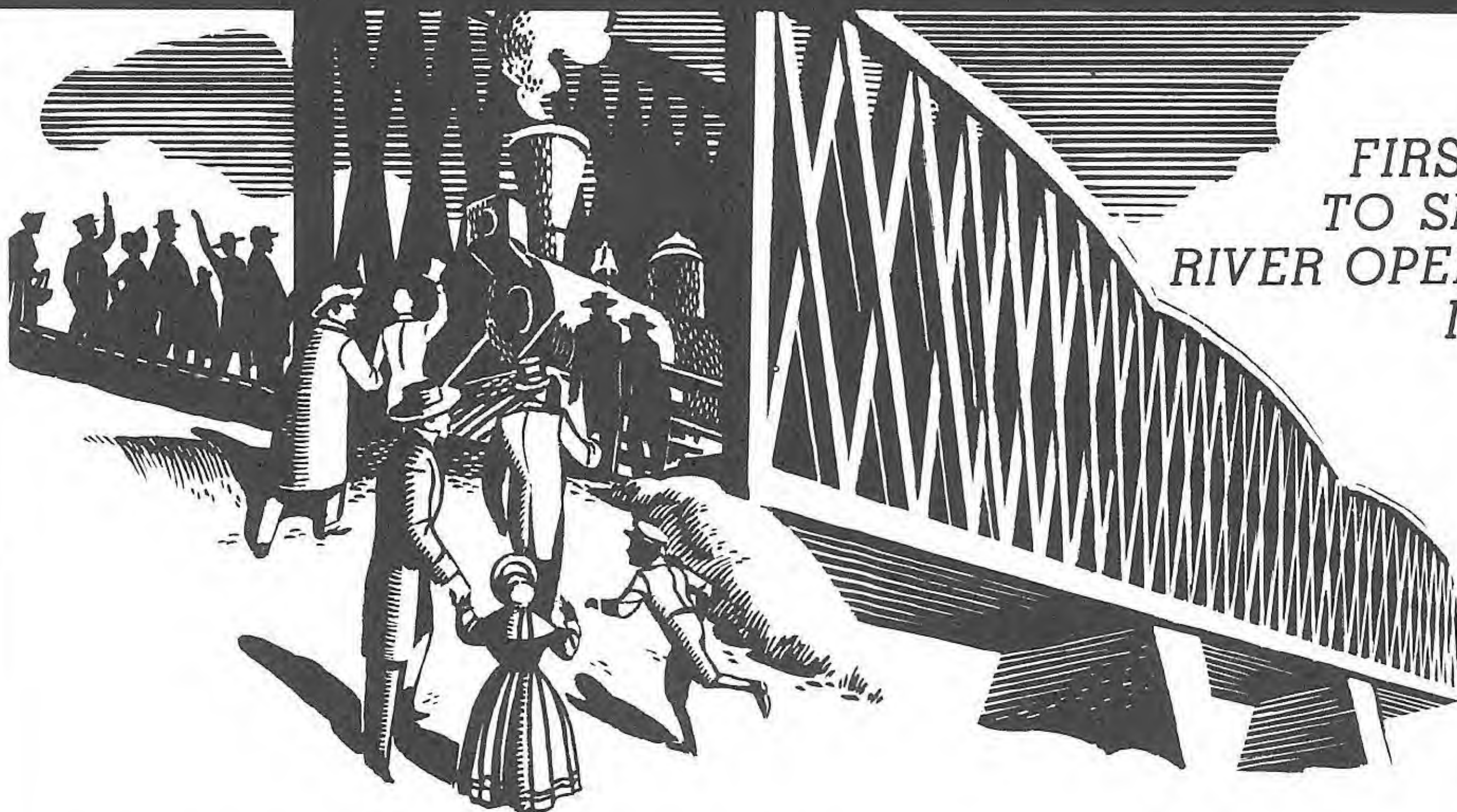
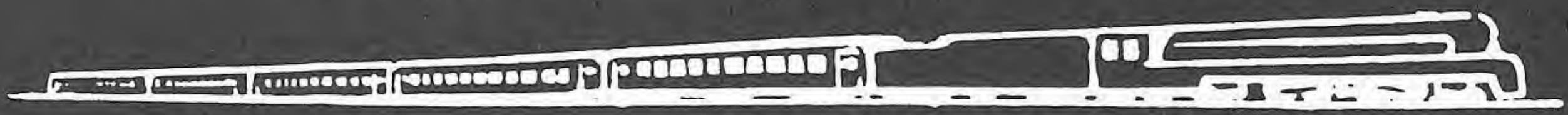
FIRST RAILROAD TO CROSS A  
MOUNTAIN RANGE BY MEANS  
OF A SERIES OF INCLINED  
PLANES OPENED TO TRAFFIC  
IN PENNSYLVANIA  
MARCH 18, 1834.





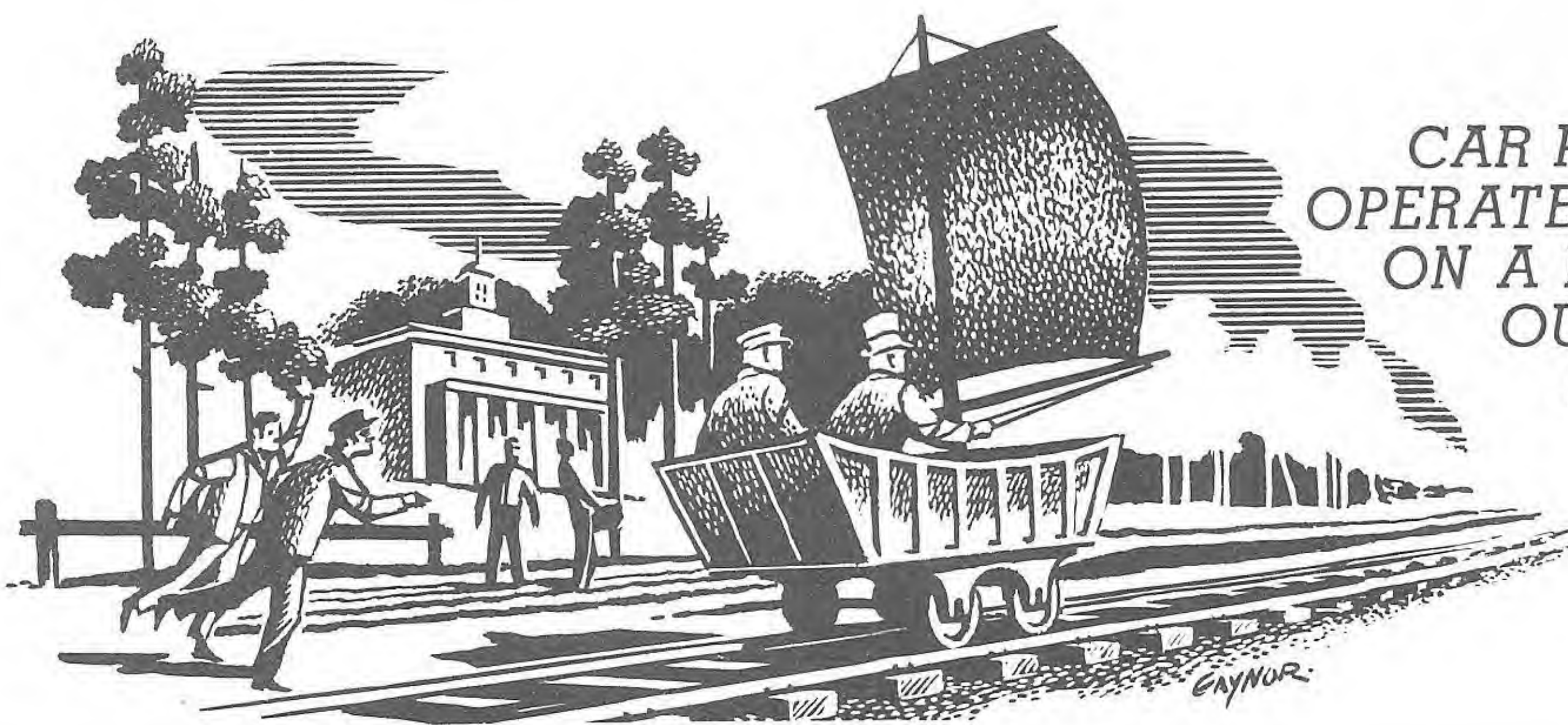
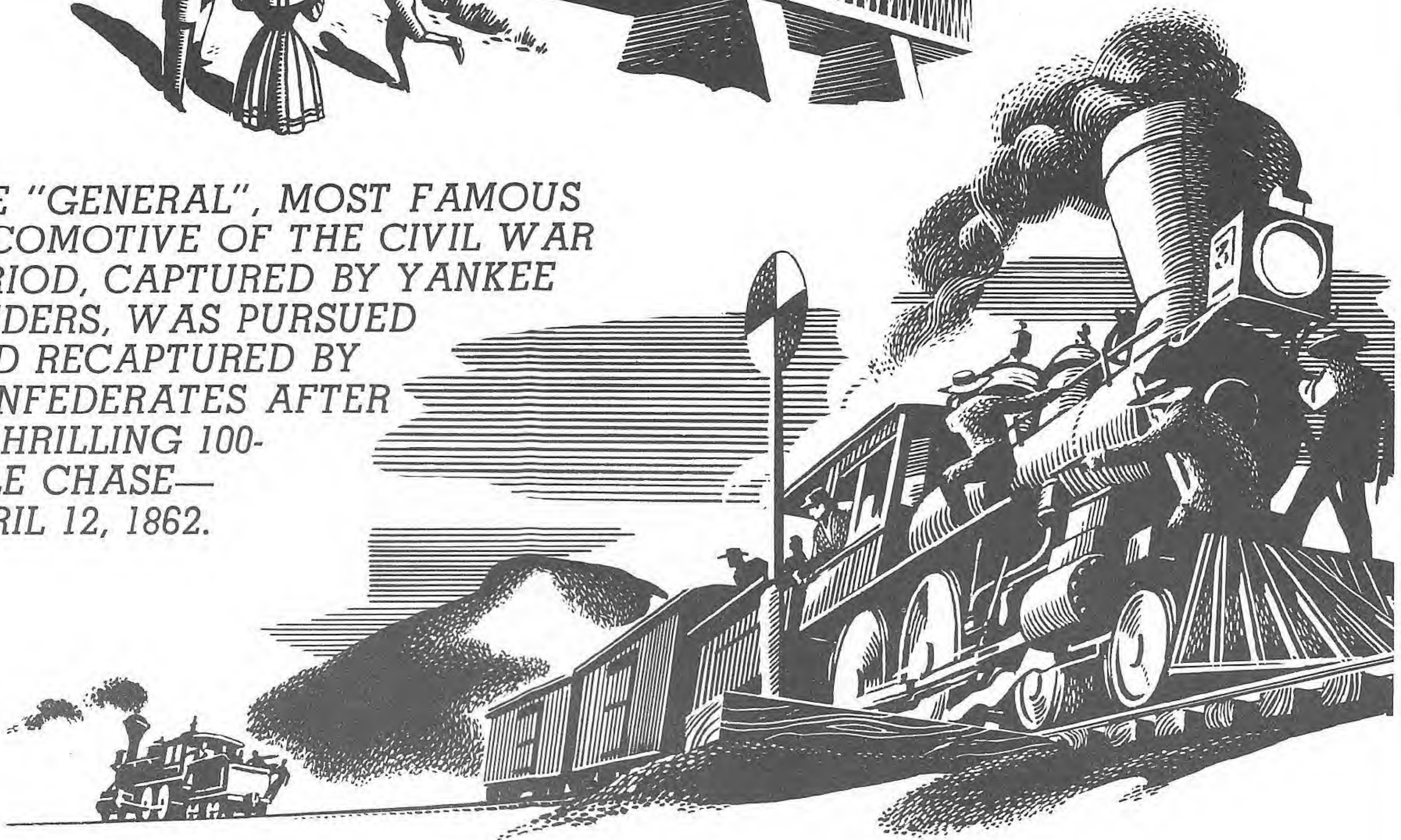
# April

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST RAILROAD BRIDGE  
TO SPAN THE MISSISSIPPI  
RIVER OPENED AT DAVENPORT,  
IOWA, APRIL 21, 1856.

THE "GENERAL", MOST FAMOUS  
LOCOMOTIVE OF THE CIVIL WAR  
PERIOD, CAPTURED BY YANKEE  
RAIDERS, WAS PURSUED  
AND RECAPTURED BY  
CONFEDERATES AFTER  
A THRILLING 100-  
MILE CHASE—  
APRIL 12, 1862.

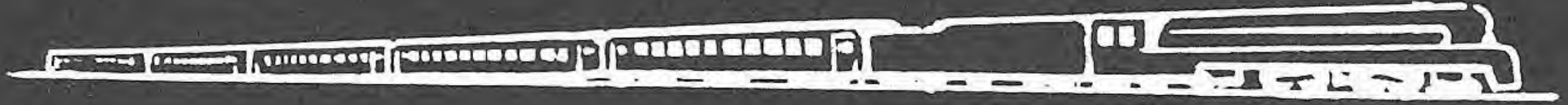


CAR PROPELLED BY SAILS  
OPERATED EXPERIMENTALLY  
ON A RAILROAD RUNNING  
OUT OF CHARLESTON,  
SOUTH CAROLINA—  
APRIL 1, 1830.



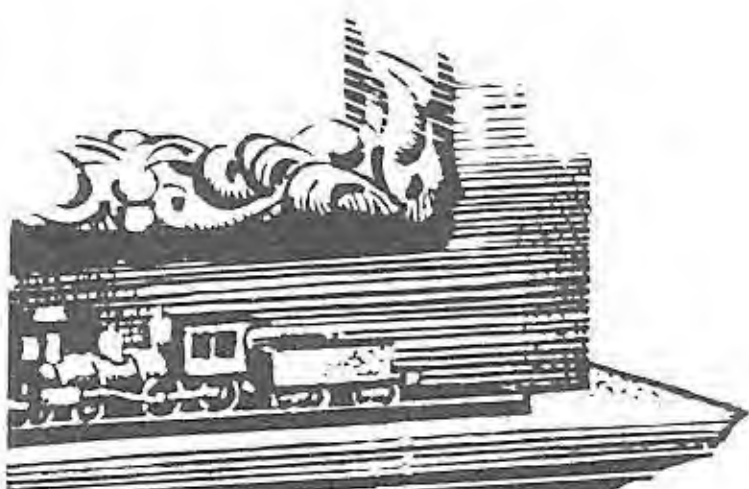
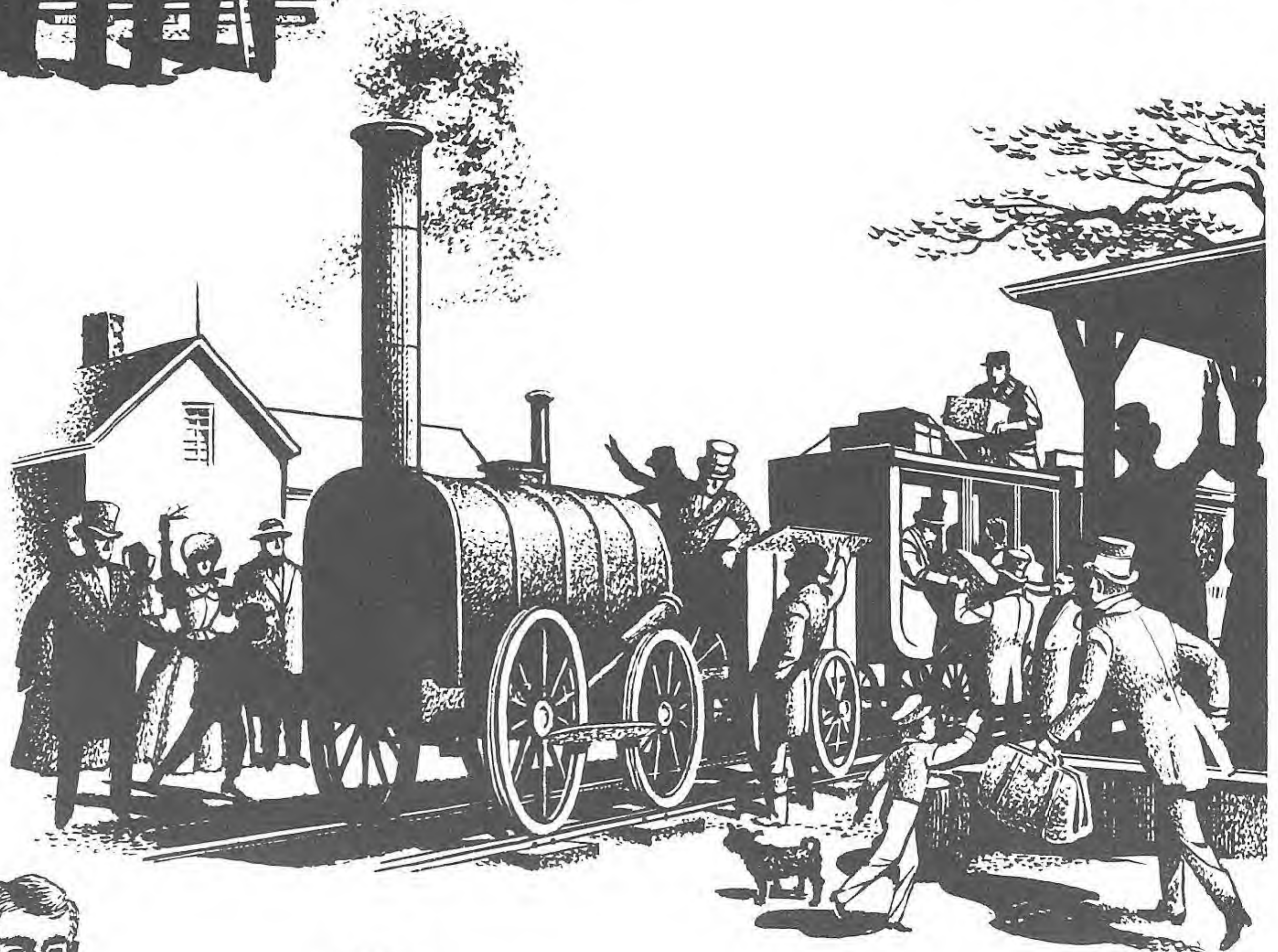
# April

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST COMPLETELY  
VESTIBULED  
PASSENGER TRAIN  
MADE TEST RUN  
OUT OF CHICAGO  
APRIL 15, 1887.  
THE TRAIN WAS  
PLACED IN  
REGULAR SERVICE  
SEVERAL DAYS  
LATER.

NEW ENGLAND'S  
FIRST PASSENGER  
TRAIN RAN FROM  
BOSTON TO  
NEWTON, MASS.,  
A DISTANCE  
OF 7 MILES,  
APRIL 4, 1834.

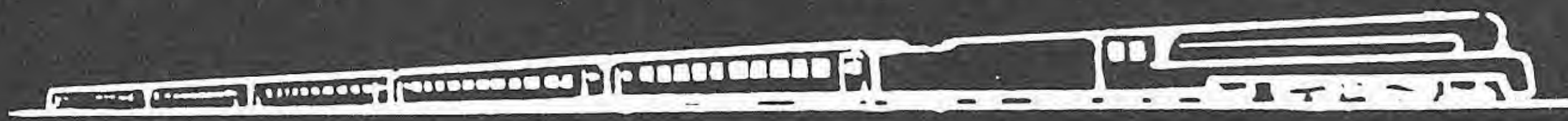


PATENT FOR FIRST  
AUTOMATIC CAR COUPLER  
ACCEPTABLE TO MASTER  
CAR BUILDERS  
ASSOCIATION ISSUED TO  
MAJOR ELI H. JANNEY  
APRIL 29, 1873. THE  
PATENT EMBODIED THE  
BASIC FEATURE OF  
COUPLERS IN USE TODAY.

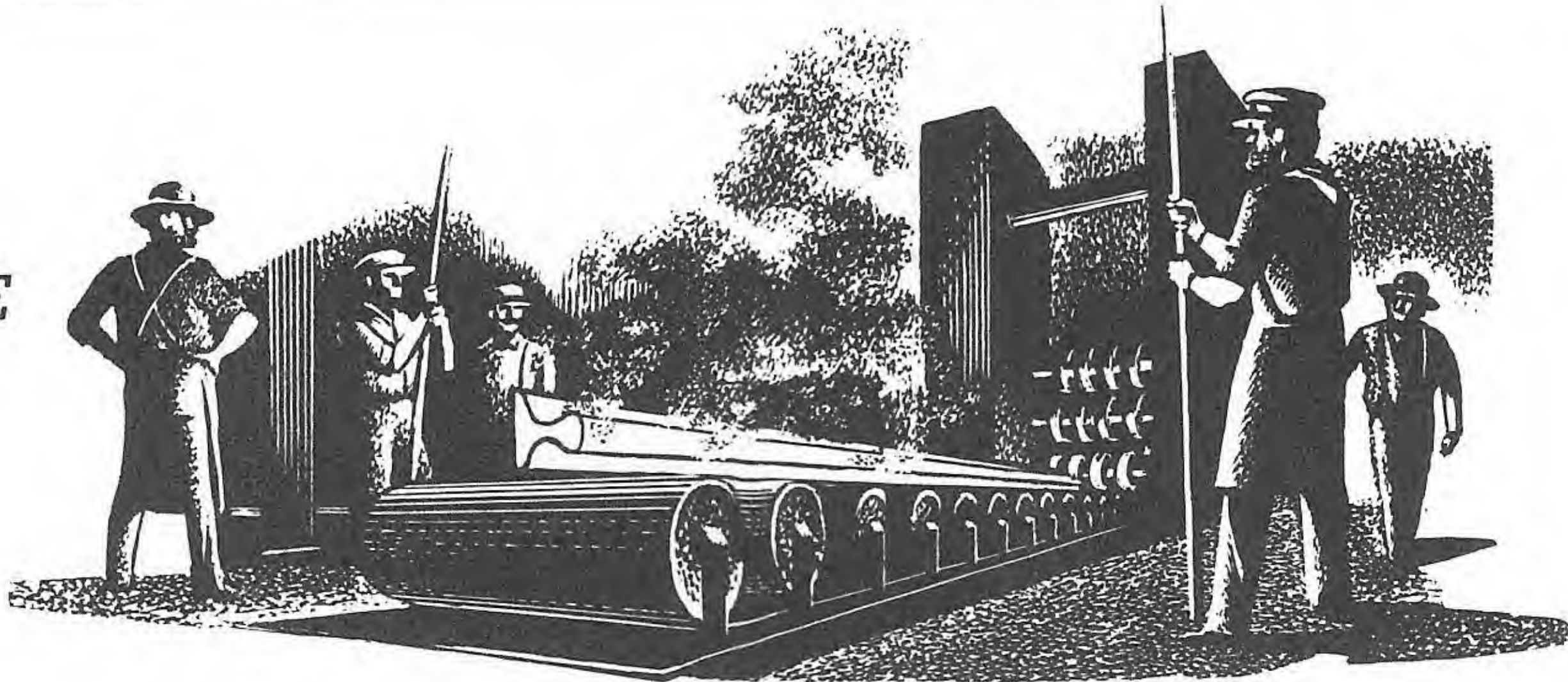


# May

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY

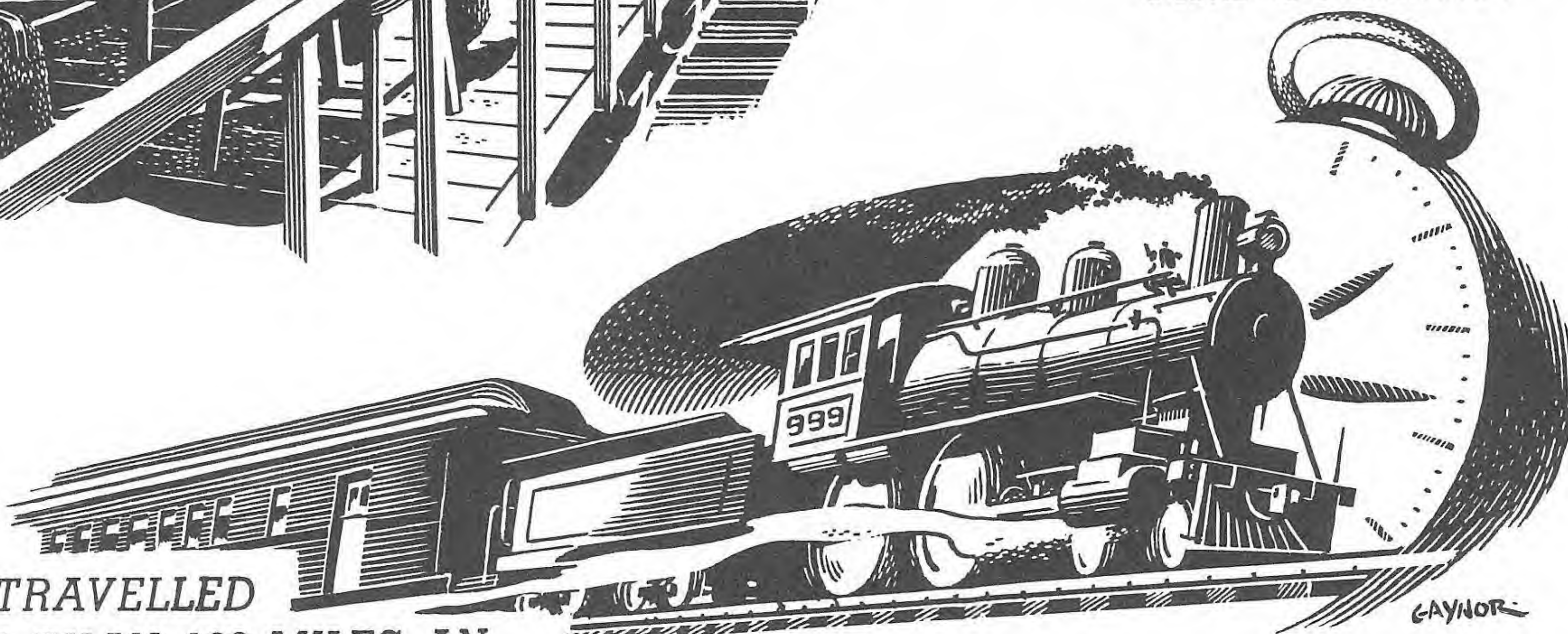


FIRST STEEL RAILS  
MANUFACTURED IN THE  
UNITED STATES  
ROLLED AT NORTH  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,  
MAY 25, 1865.



FIRST CONTINUOUS  
RAILROAD FROM  
ATLANTIC WATERS  
TO THE GREAT LAKES  
OPENED MAY 15, 1851.  
DANIEL WEBSTER, AT  
HIS OWN REQUEST,  
MADE PART OF THE  
TRIP IN A ROCKING  
CHAIR FASTENED TO A  
FLAT CAR "TO BETTER  
VIEW AND ENJOY THE  
FINE COUNTRY."

MAN  
FIRST TRAVELLED  
FASTER THAN 100 MILES AN  
HOUR ON MAY 10, 1893, WHEN A PASSENGER TRAIN  
ATTAINED A SPEED OF 112.5 MILES AN HOUR NEAR BATAVIA, NEW YORK.



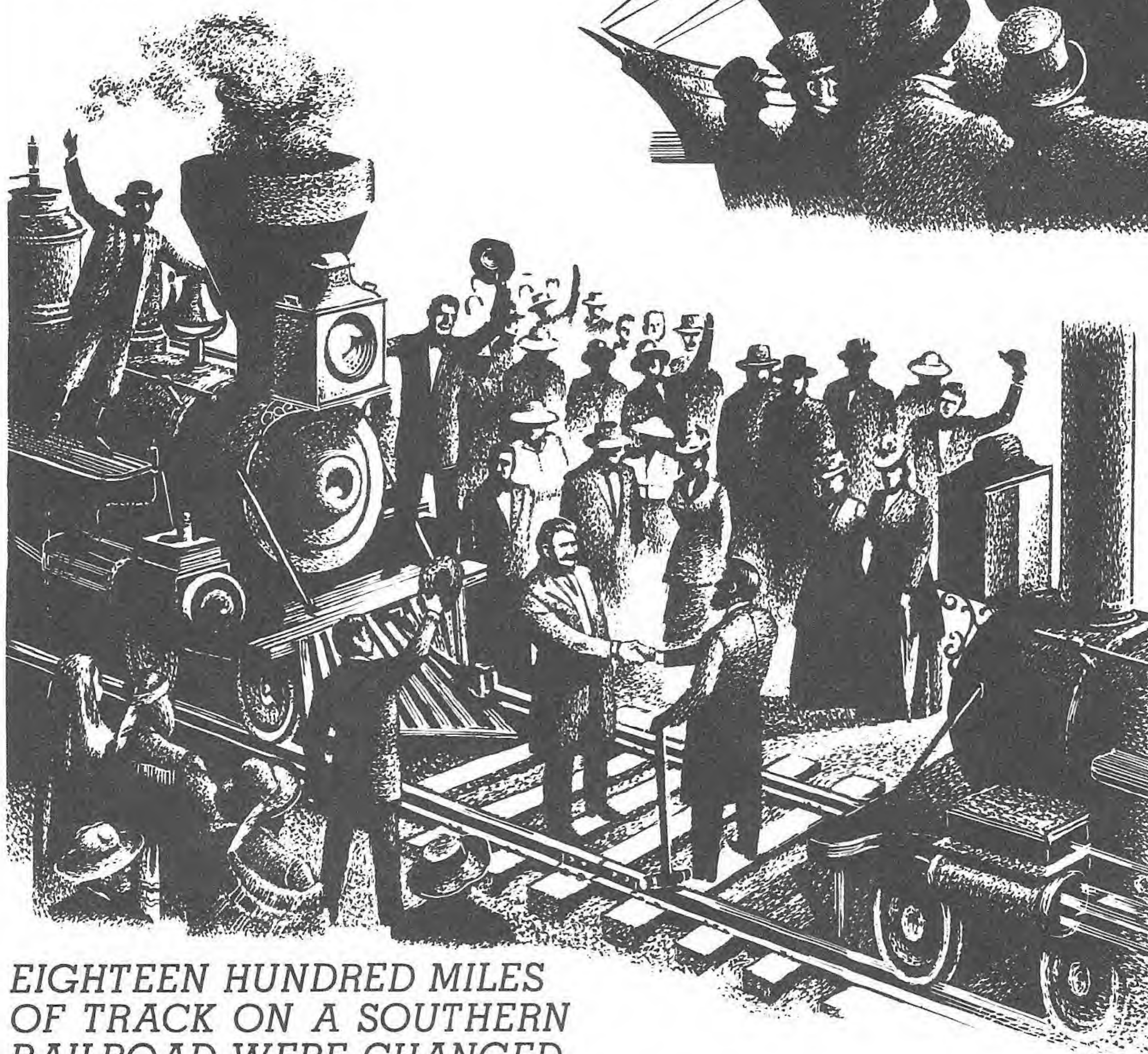
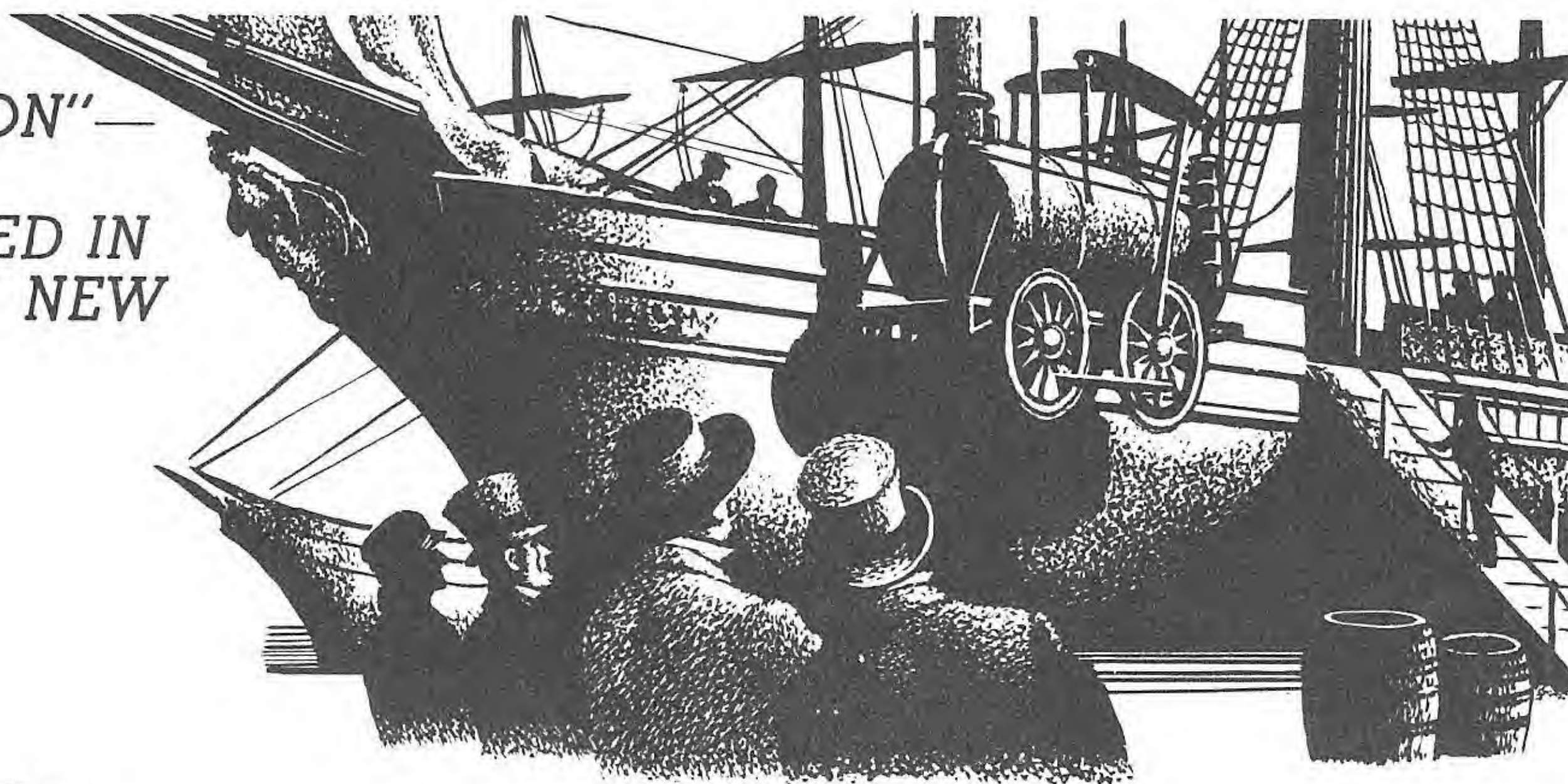


# May

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



THE "STOURBRIDGE LION"—  
FIRST ENGLISH-BUILT  
LOCOMOTIVE OPERATED IN  
AMERICA ARRIVED AT NEW  
YORK MAY 13, 1829.



RAILS JOINED  
MAY 10, 1869, AT  
PROMONTORY,  
UTAH, MARKING  
COMPLETION OF  
FIRST TRANS-  
CONTINENTAL  
RAIL ROUTE  
IN THE UNITED  
STATES.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED MILES  
OF TRACK ON A SOUTHERN  
RAILROAD WERE CHANGED  
FROM BROAD TO STANDARD  
GAUGE IN A SINGLE DAY—  
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1886.  
MORE THAN 8000 MEN  
WERE ENGAGED IN  
CARRYING OUT THE  
STUPENDOUS PROJECT.  
SEVERAL OTHER SOUTHERN  
RAILROADS CHANGED THEIR  
GAUGE ON THE SAME DAY.





# June

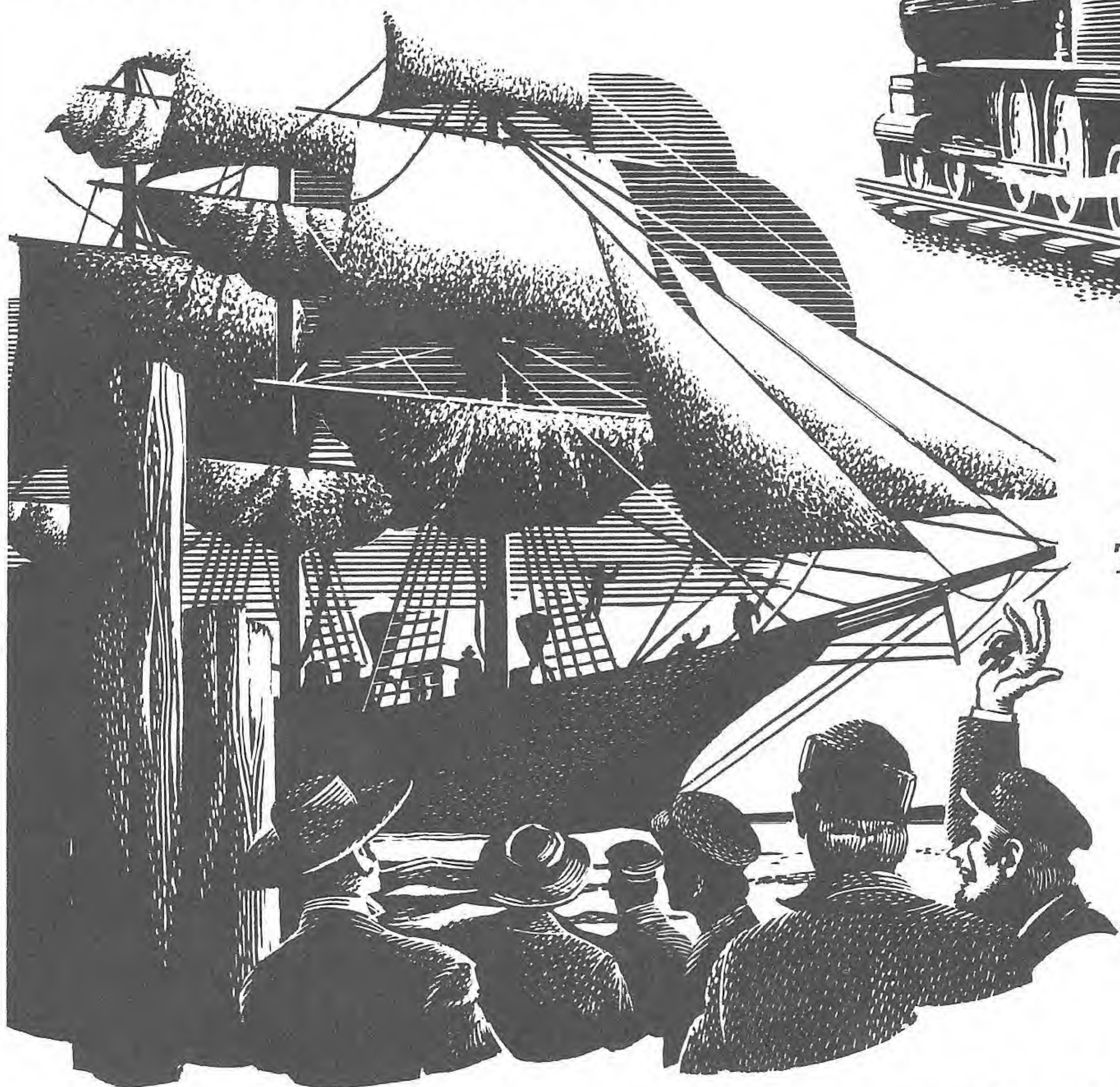
## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



SPEED OF 127.06 MILES AN HOUR—  
FASTEST EVER RECORDED ON AN  
AMERICAN RAILROAD—ATTAINED BY A  
NEW YORK-CHICAGO PASSENGER TRAIN  
NEAR ADA, OHIO, JUNE 12, 1905.



JUNE 15, 1855—  
CALIFORNIA'S FIRST  
TWO LOCOMOTIVES  
ARRIVED IN SAN  
FRANCISCO BAY  
ABOARD A SAILING  
VESSEL AFTER A  
VOYAGE AROUND  
CAPE HORN.



ANDREW JACKSON, FIRST  
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT  
TO RIDE A RAILROAD TRAIN,  
MADE 12-MILE TRIP FROM  
ELLCOTT'S MILLS TO  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND,  
JUNE 6, 1833.



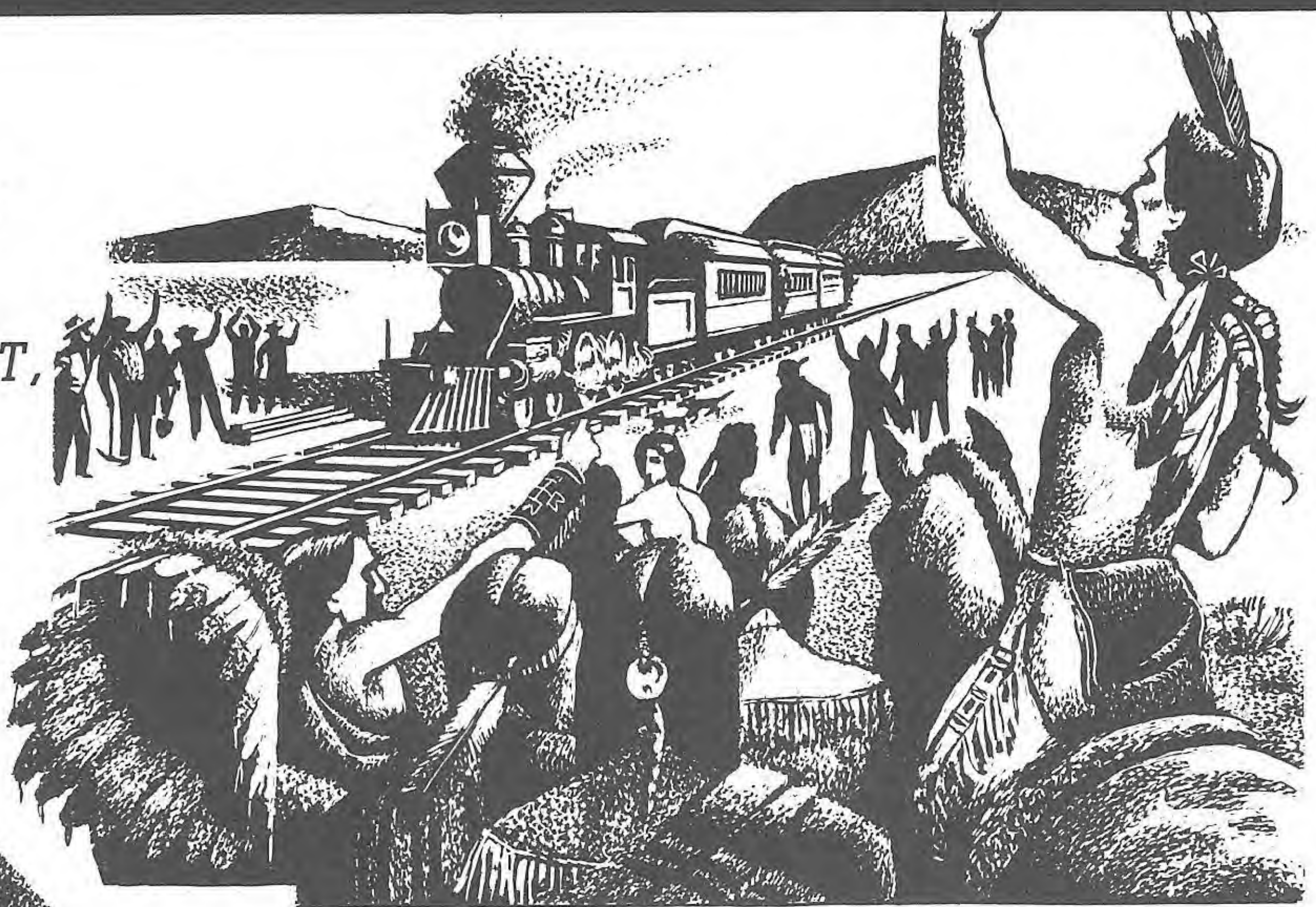


# June

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST LOCOMOTIVE TO ENTER INDIAN TERRITORY RAN FROM THE KANSAS LINE NEAR CHETOPA TO A POINT NEAR BLUE JACKET, CHEROKEE NATION, I.T. (NOW OKLAHOMA) ON JUNE 6, 1870.



"OFFICIAL GUIDE OF THE RAILWAYS"—IN DAILY USE BY RAILROAD MEN THE COUNTRY OVER—WAS FIRST ISSUED IN JUNE, 1868, AS THE "TRAVELERS' OFFICIAL GUIDE OF THE RAILWAYS." IT IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST MONTHLY PUBLICATION.

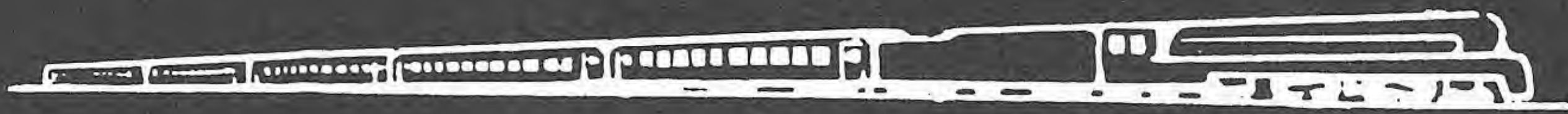
GREAT CELEBRATION HELD IN ST. LOUIS JUNE 4, 1857, ON COMPLETION OF ITS FIRST DIRECT RAIL ROUTE FROM THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD. SPECIAL TRAINS BROUGHT HUNDREDS OF GUESTS FROM BALTIMORE, WASHINGTON AND CINCINNATI.





# July

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



GROUND BROKEN AND CORNERSTONE LAID AT BALTIMORE, JULY 4, 1828, IN CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST AMERICAN RAILROAD TO SERVE AS A COMMON CARRIER. CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON, LAST SURVIVING SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, TURNED THE FIRST SPADEFUL OF EARTH.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN SIGNED ACT JULY 1, 1862, AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILROAD FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. THIS BECAME THE FIRST RAIL ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC.



FIRST RAILWAY SHIPMENT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER REFRIGERATION WAS EIGHT TONS OF BUTTER FROM OGDENSBURG, N. Y., JULY 1, 1851. THE SHIPMENT WAS MADE IN A BOX CAR CONTAINING BINS FILLED WITH BLOCKS OF ICE IN SAWDUST.



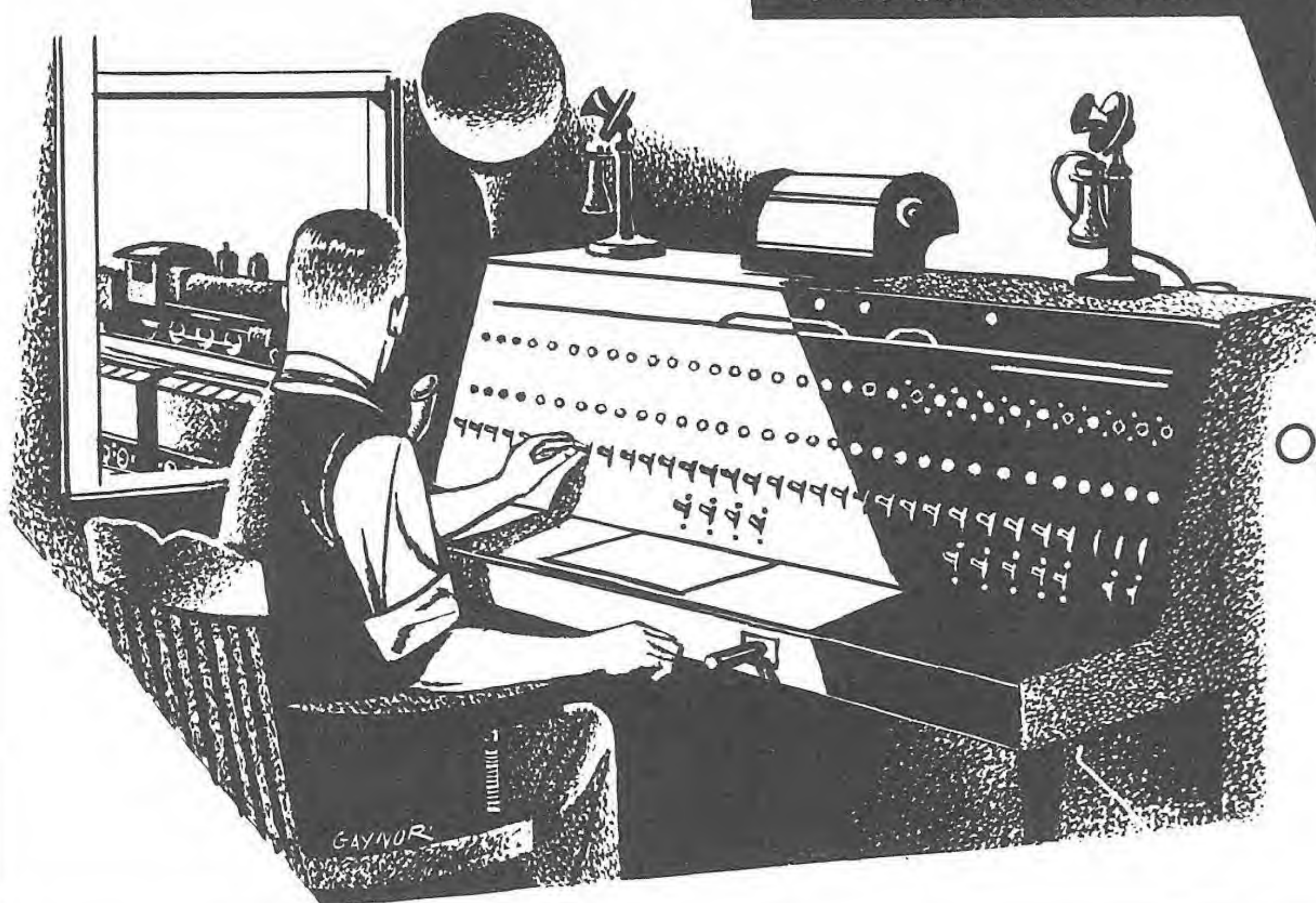
# July

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



**GROUND BROKEN JULY 4, 1851, AT ST. LOUIS FOR THE FIRST RAILROAD WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**

**FIRST ISSUE OF AMERICA'S PIONEER RAILWAY PUBLICATION — "THE RAIL-ROAD ADVOCATE" — PUBLISHED BY "AN ASSOCIATION OF GENTLEMEN" AT ROGERSVILLE, TENNESSEE, JULY 4, 1831.**



**FIRST REGULAR TRAIN OPERATION BY CENTRALIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL (C.T.C.) BEGAN ON A 37-MILE STRETCH OF RAILROAD BETWEEN STANLEY AND BOWIE, OHIO, JULY 25, 1927.**



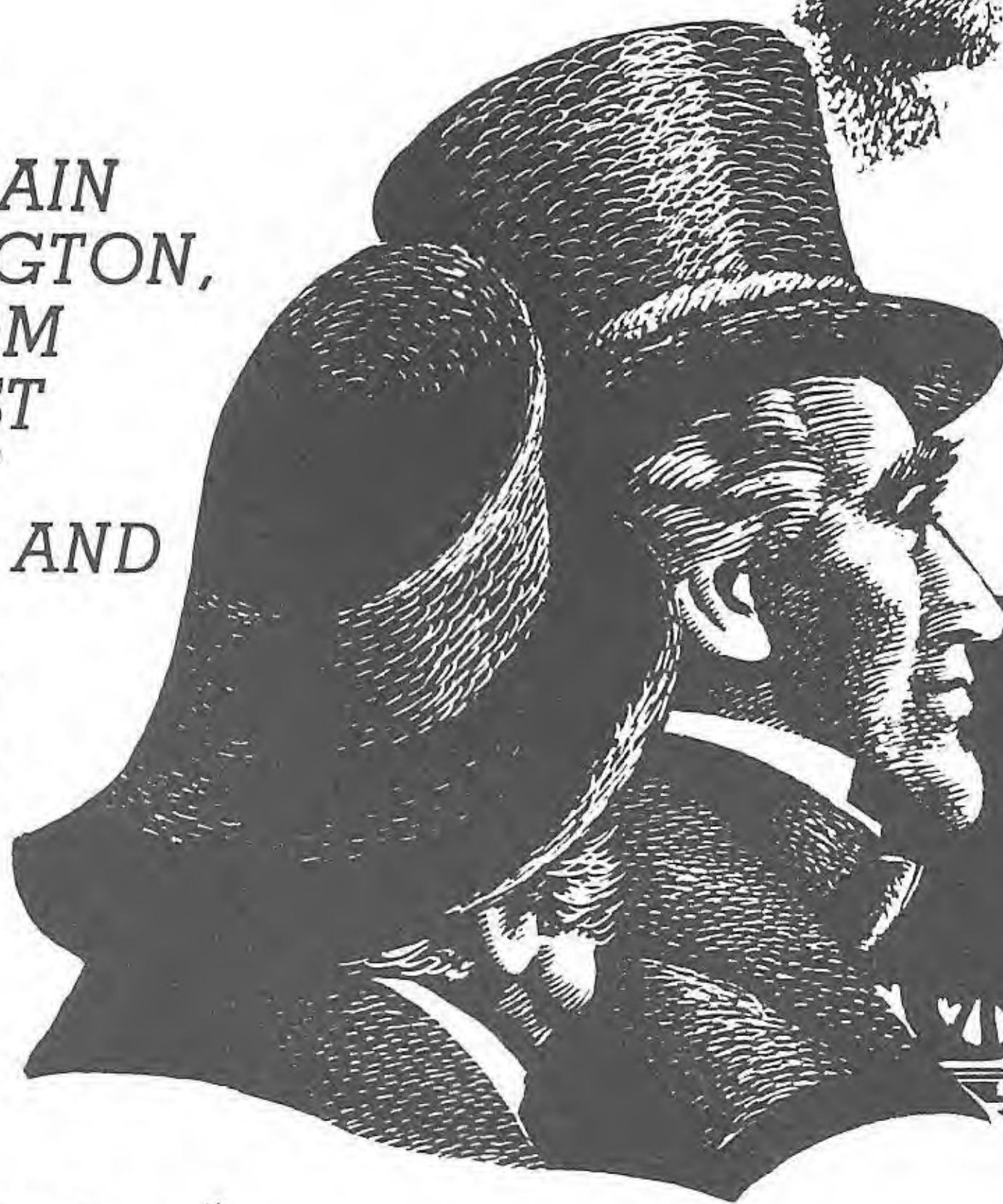
# August

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST ENGLISH-BUILT LOCOMOTIVE TO RUN ON AN AMERICAN RAILROAD—THE "STOURBRIDGE LION"—MADE TRIAL RUN AUGUST 8, 1829 AT HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA. HORATIO ALLEN WAS THE ENGINEER.

FIRST RAILWAY TRAIN TO ENTER WASHINGTON, D. C., ARRIVED FROM BALTIMORE AUGUST 24, 1835. PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET WERE ON HAND TO WITNESS THE EVENT.



STAGE-COACH SERVICE BETWEEN DENVER AND THE EAST DISCONTINUED AUGUST 19, 1870, FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION.

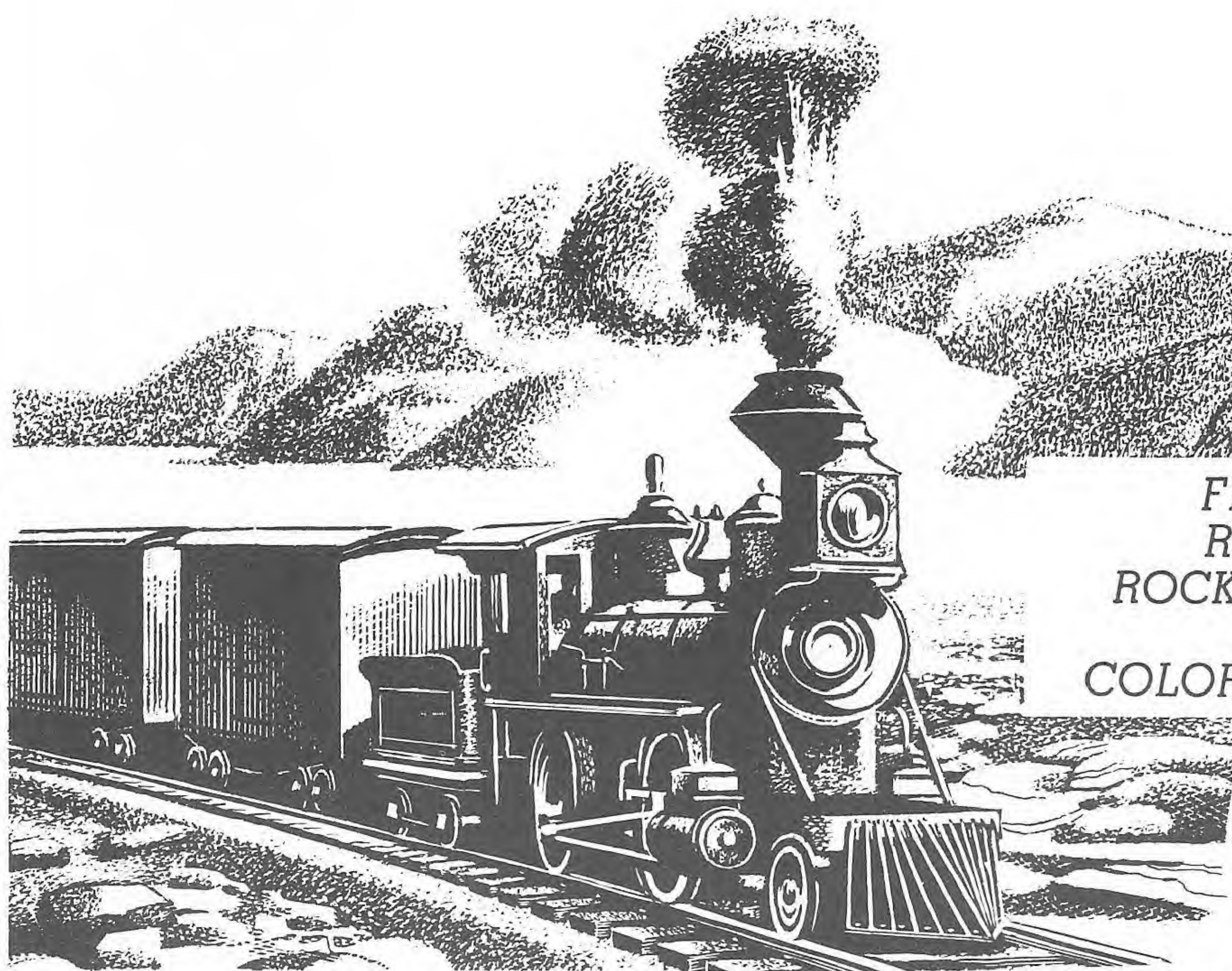
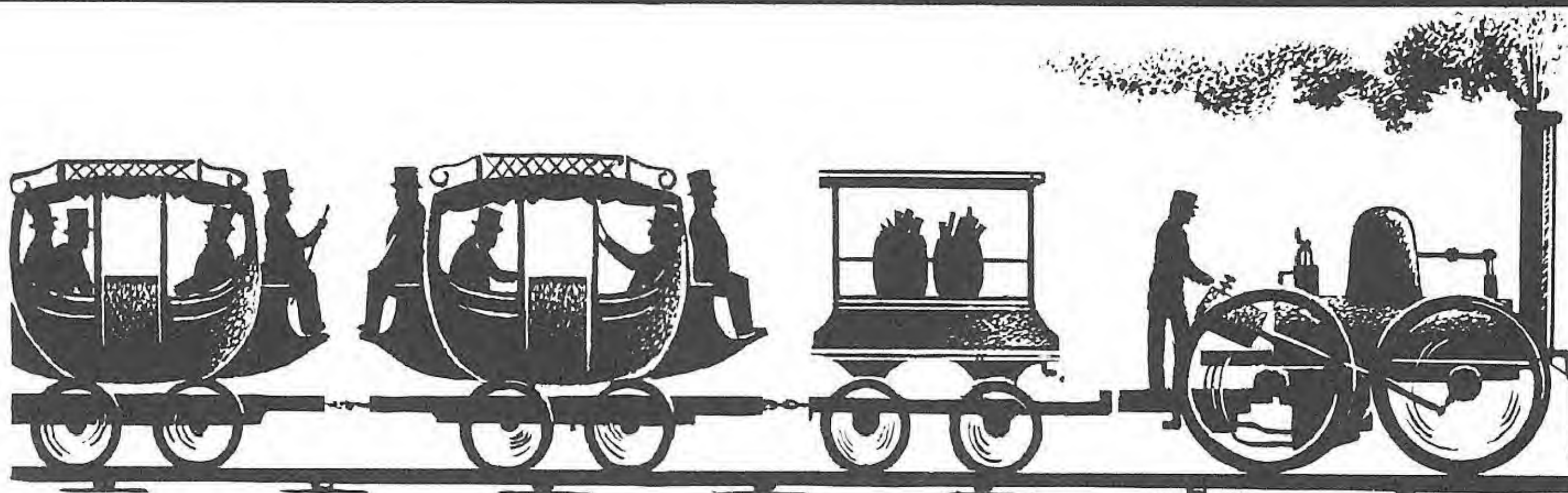


# August

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY

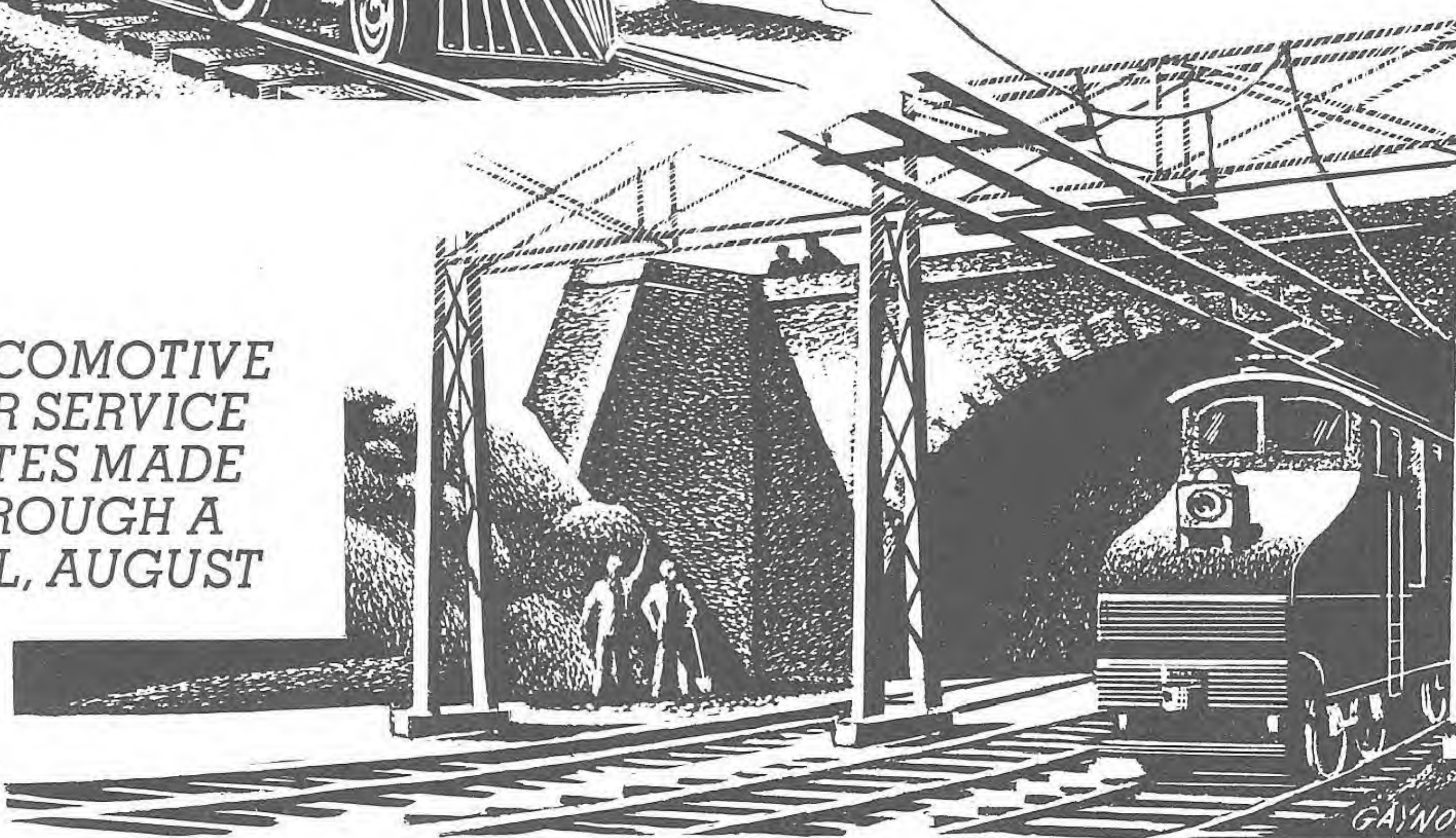


FIRST TRAIN TO  
OPERATE IN NEW  
YORK STATE MADE  
INITIAL RUN FROM  
ALBANY TO  
SCHENECTADY ON  
AUGUST 9, 1831.



FIRST NARROW GAUGE  
RAILWAY TRAIN IN THE  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
MADE INITIAL RUN IN  
COLORADO AUGUST 16, 1871.

FIRST ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE  
TO RUN IN REGULAR SERVICE  
IN THE UNITED STATES MADE  
ITS INITIAL RUN THROUGH A  
BALTIMORE TUNNEL, AUGUST  
4, 1895.





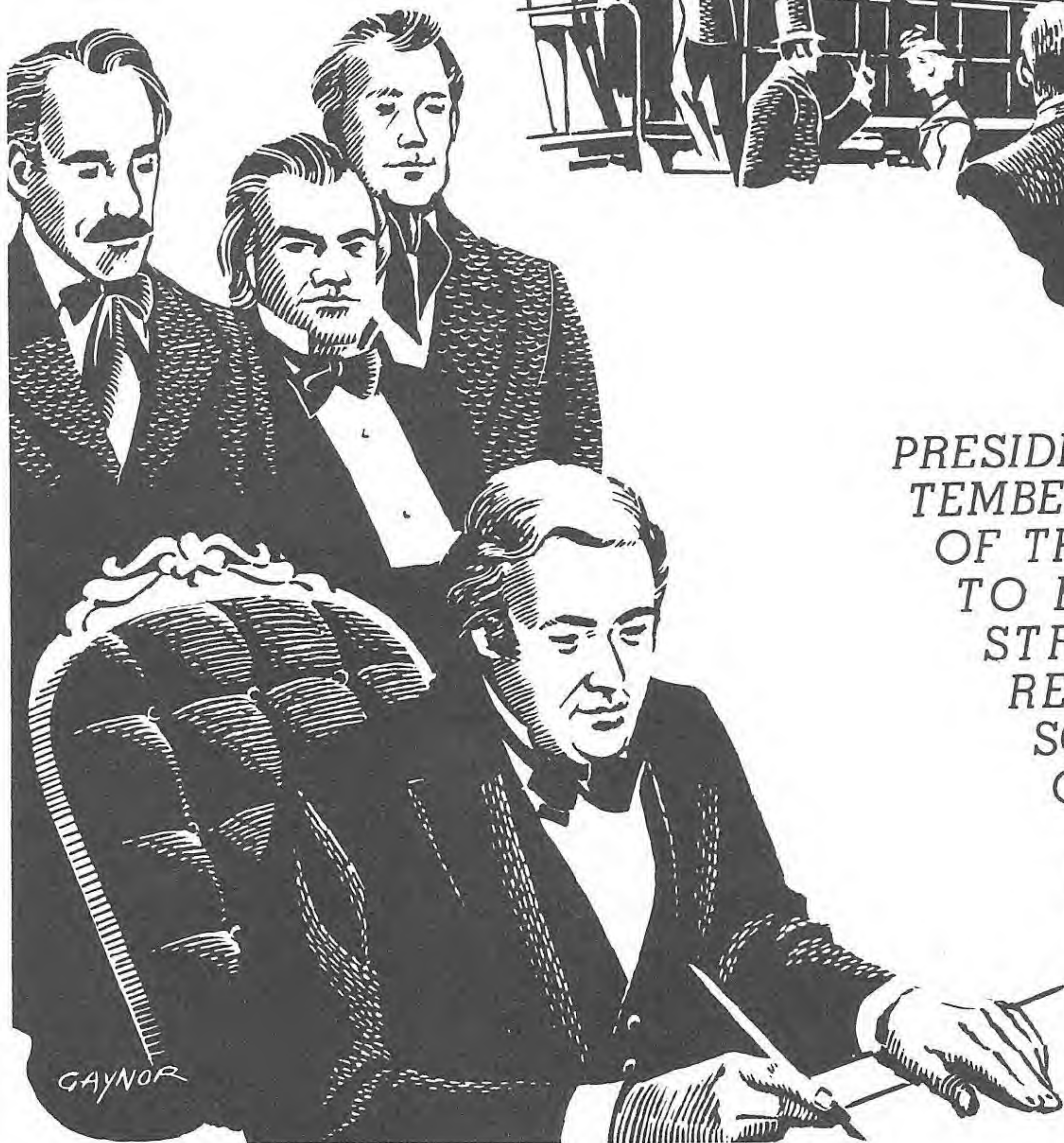
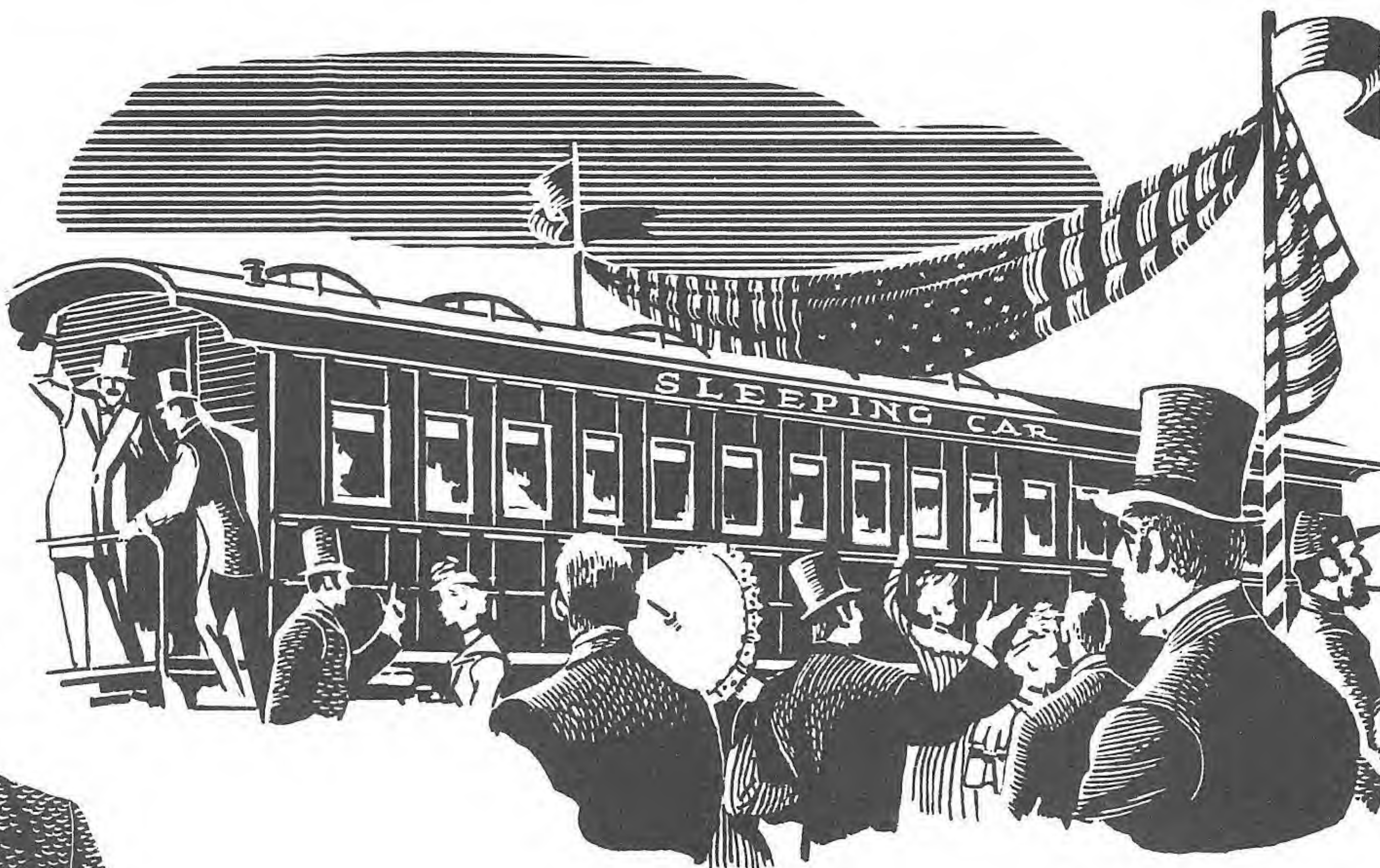
# September

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



TELEGRAPH FIRST  
USED IN DISPATCH-  
ING TRAINS—SEP-  
TEMBER 22, 1851.

INITIAL TRIP  
OF GEORGE M.  
PULLMAN'S FIRST  
SLEEPING CAR—  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1859.



PRESIDENT MILLARD FILLMORE — SEP-  
TEMBER 20, 1850 — SIGNED THE FIRST  
OF THE FEDERAL LAND-GRANT ACTS  
TO ENCOURAGE RAILWAY CON-  
STRUCTION IN UNDEVELOPED  
REGIONS OF THE WEST AND  
SOUTH. LESS THAN 10 PER CENT  
OF U. S. RAILROAD MILEAGE  
WAS THUS AIDED. IN RETURN,  
RAILROADS CARRIED GOVERN-  
MENT TRAFFIC AT REDUCED  
RATES, SAVING THE GOVERN-  
MENT MANY TIMES THE VALUE  
OF THE LANDS GRANTED.



# September

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



GROUND-BREAKING  
CEREMONY AT DAVENPORT,  
IOWA, SEPTEMBER 1, 1854,  
FOR FIRST RAILROAD  
BRIDGE ACROSS THE  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



MASTER CAR-BUILDERS'  
ASSOCIATION—FORERUNNER  
OF ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN  
RAILROADS—ORGANIZED AT  
ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1867, TO  
CONDUCT RESEARCH AND  
PROMOTE STANDARDIZATION  
OF EQUIPMENT.

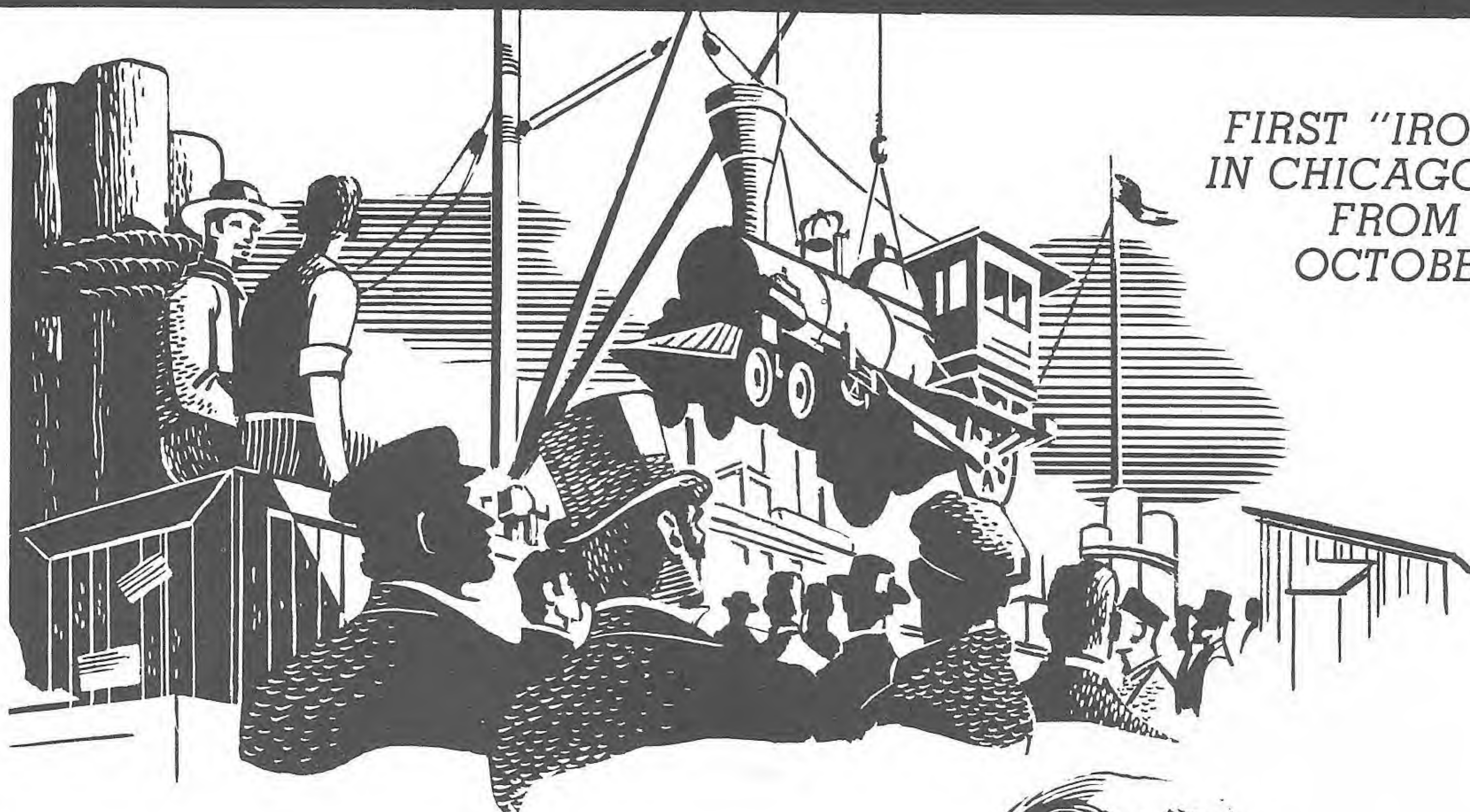
FIRST LOCOMOTIVE IN  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY—  
THE "PONTCHARTRAIN"—  
MADE ITS INITIAL RUN  
FROM NEW ORLEANS TO  
LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1832.





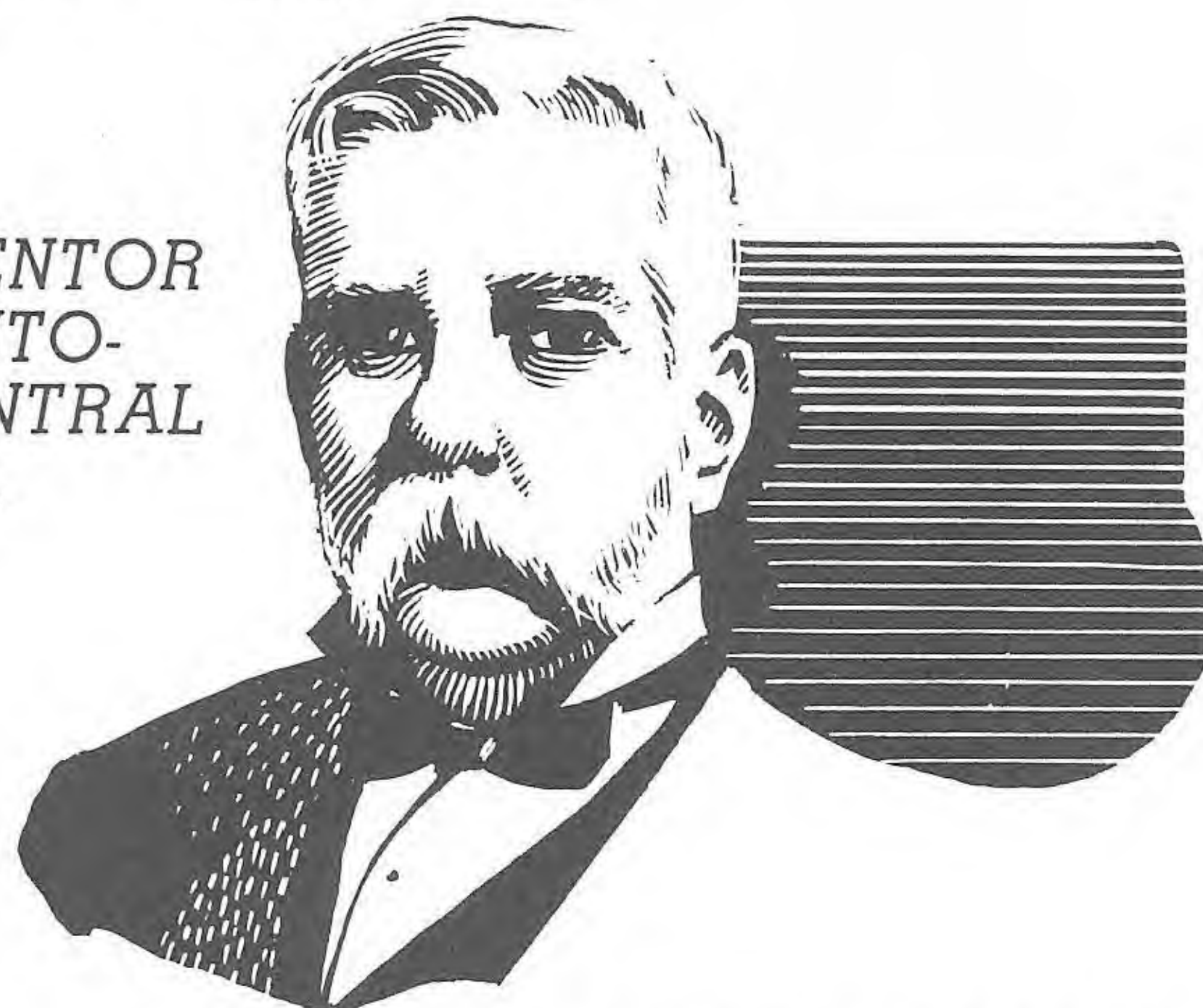
# October

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST "IRON HORSE"  
IN CHICAGO ARRIVED  
FROM THE EAST  
OCTOBER 10, 1848.

GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE, INVENTOR  
OF THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL AUTO-  
MATIC AIR BRAKE, BORN AT CENTRAL  
BRIDGE, N.Y., OCTOBER 6, 1846.

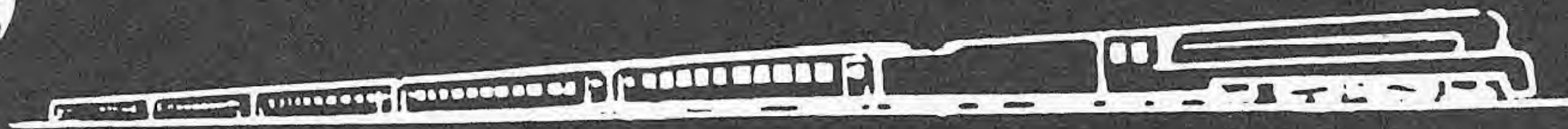


FIRST INCORPORATED  
RAILROAD TO PER-  
FORM TRANSPORTA-  
TION SERVICE IN THE  
UNITED STATES BEGAN  
OPERATIONS AT  
QUINCY, MASS.,  
OCTOBER 7, 1826.  
HORSES PROVIDED  
THE MOTIVE POWER.  
THE ROAD CONVEYED  
GRANITE FOR USE IN  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.



# October

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST PERMANENT PENSION SYSTEM FOR RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ESTABLISHED OCTOBER 1, 1884. EIGHTY-FOUR RAILROADS, EMBRACING 90% OF ALL RAILWAY EMPLOYEES, HAD SUCH SYSTEMS BEFORE THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACT WAS PASSED IN 1937.



FIRST TRAIN ROBBERY IN AMERICAN HISTORY COMMITTED BY RENO GANG IN SOUTHERN INDIANA, OCTOBER 6, 1866.



FIRST RAILROAD TO BE LAID WITH "T" RAIL—ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN RAILROADING—OPENED FOR BUSINESS IN NEW JERSEY OCTOBER 9, 1832.



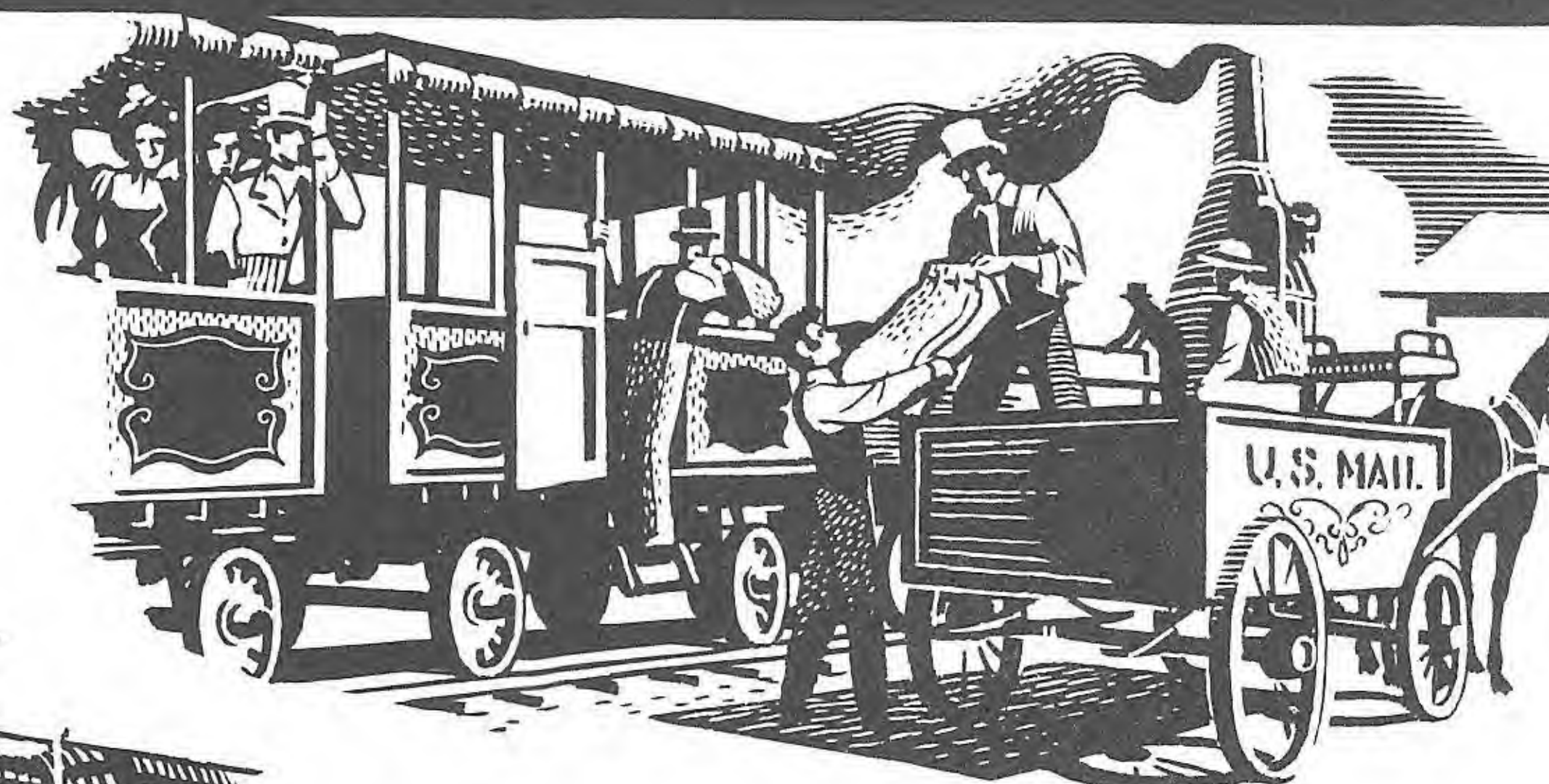


# November

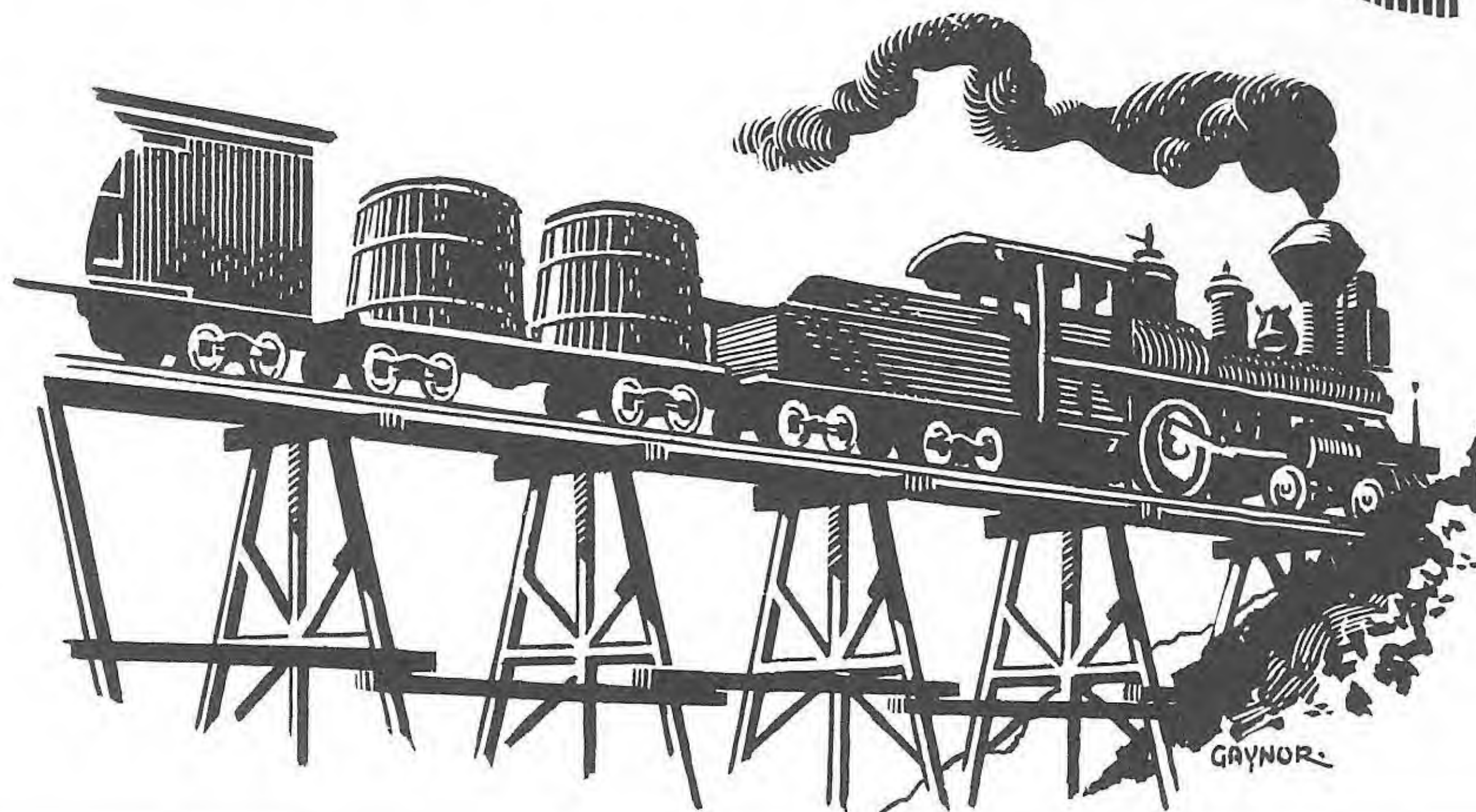
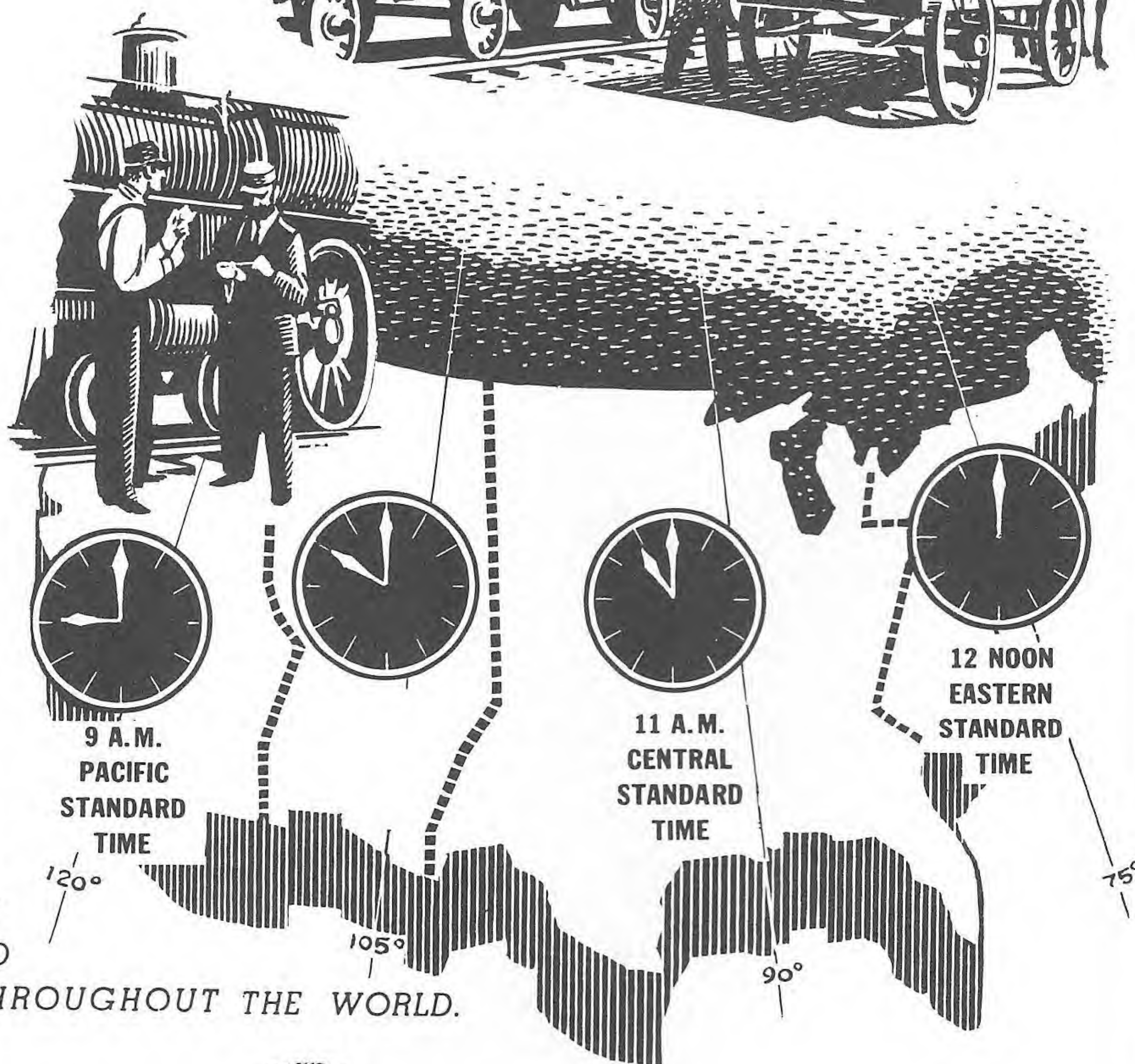
## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



THE FIRST KNOWN INSTANCE OF UNITED STATES MAIL BEING TRANSPORTED BY RAILROAD WAS FROM CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, NOVEMBER, 1831.



ON NOVEMBER 18, 1883, RAILROADS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES ADOPTED STANDARD TIME, REPLACING NUMEROUS LOCAL TIMES BY WHICH TRAINS WERE OPERATED. STANDARD TIME WAS DIVIDED INTO FOUR ZONES BASED ON SUN TIME AT THE 75TH, 90TH, 105TH AND 120TH MERIDIANS WEST OF GREENWICH. THE TIME SYSTEM THUS INITIATED WAS PROMPTLY ACCEPTED BY CITIES AND TOWNS FROM COAST TO COAST AND EVENTUALLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



FIRST SHIPMENT OF PETROLEUM IN A TANK CAR — A FLAT CAR FITTED WITH TWO WOODEN TANKS RESEMBLING INVERTED TUBS—ORIGINATED AT TITUSVILLE, P.A., NOVEMBER 1, 1865.



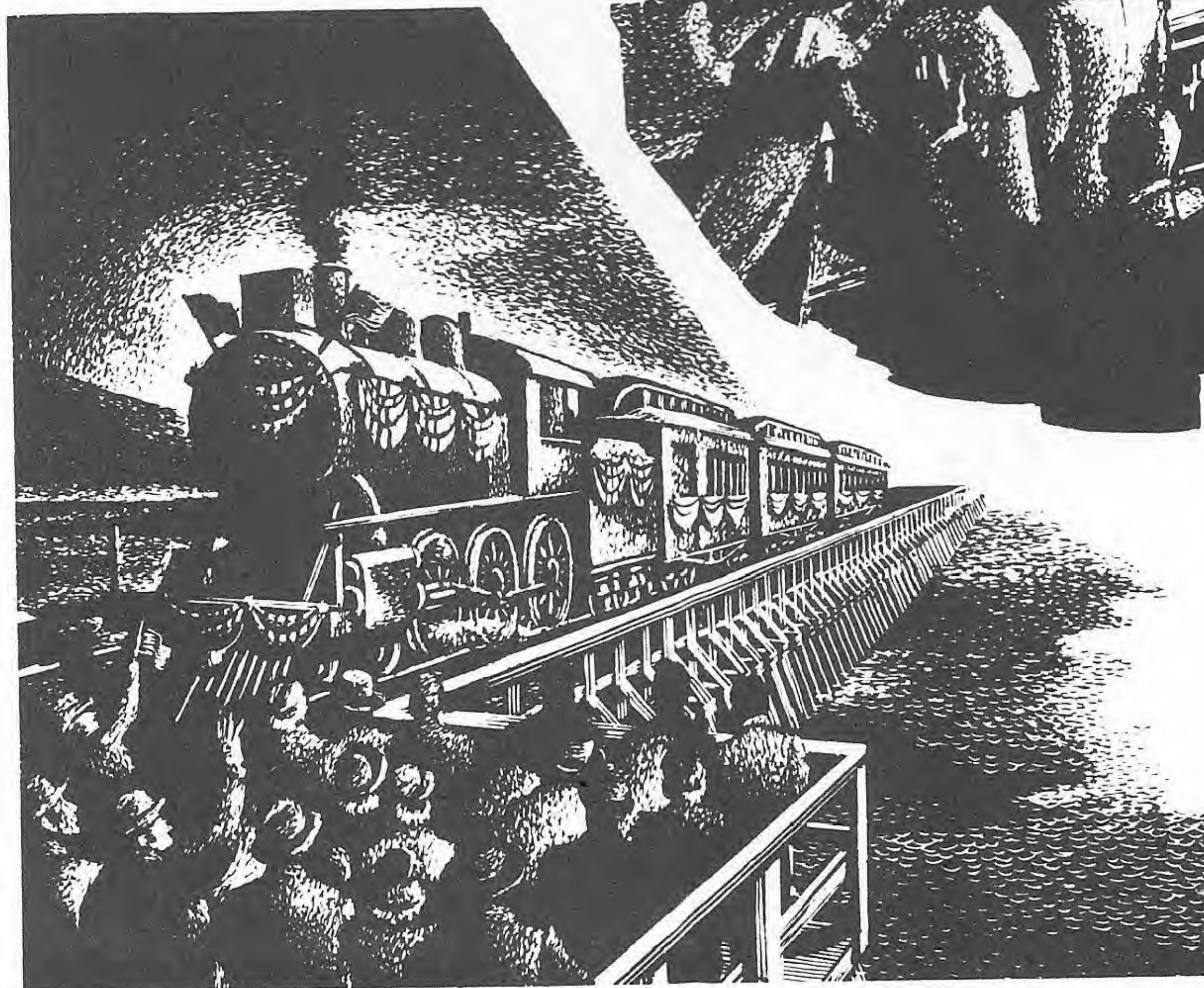
# November

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST PATENT FOR A REFRIGERATOR CAR ISSUED TO J. B. SUTHERLAND OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 26, 1867.

MATTHIAS BALDWIN'S FIRST LOCOMOTIVE, "OLD IRONSIDES", MADE ITS INITIAL RUN FOR A DISTANCE OF 6 MILES, NOVEMBER 23, 1832.



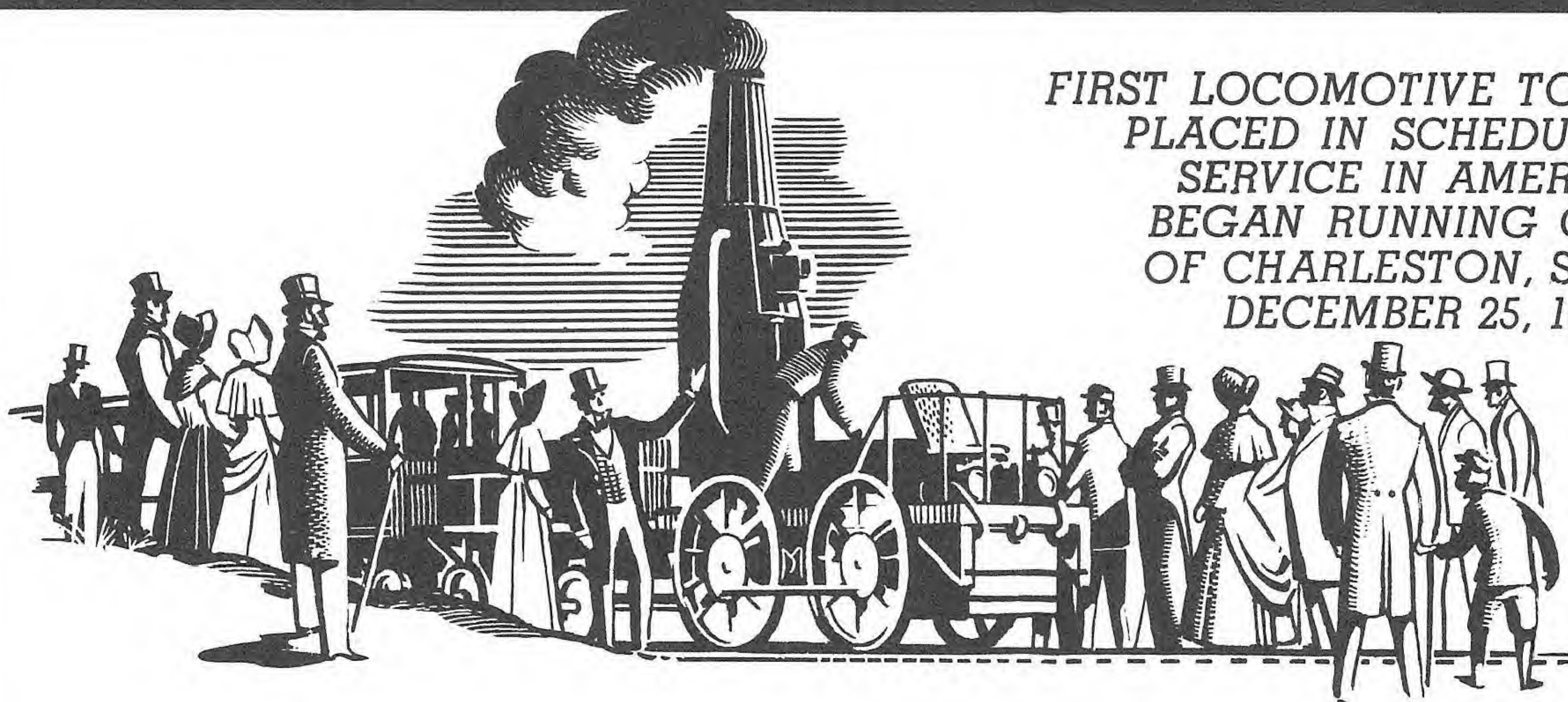
WORLD'S LONGEST TRESTLE BRIDGE, THE LUCIN CUTOFF ACROSS GREAT SALT LAKE COMPLETED NOVEMBER 26, 1903. IT IS TWELVE MILES IN LENGTH.

CAYNOR



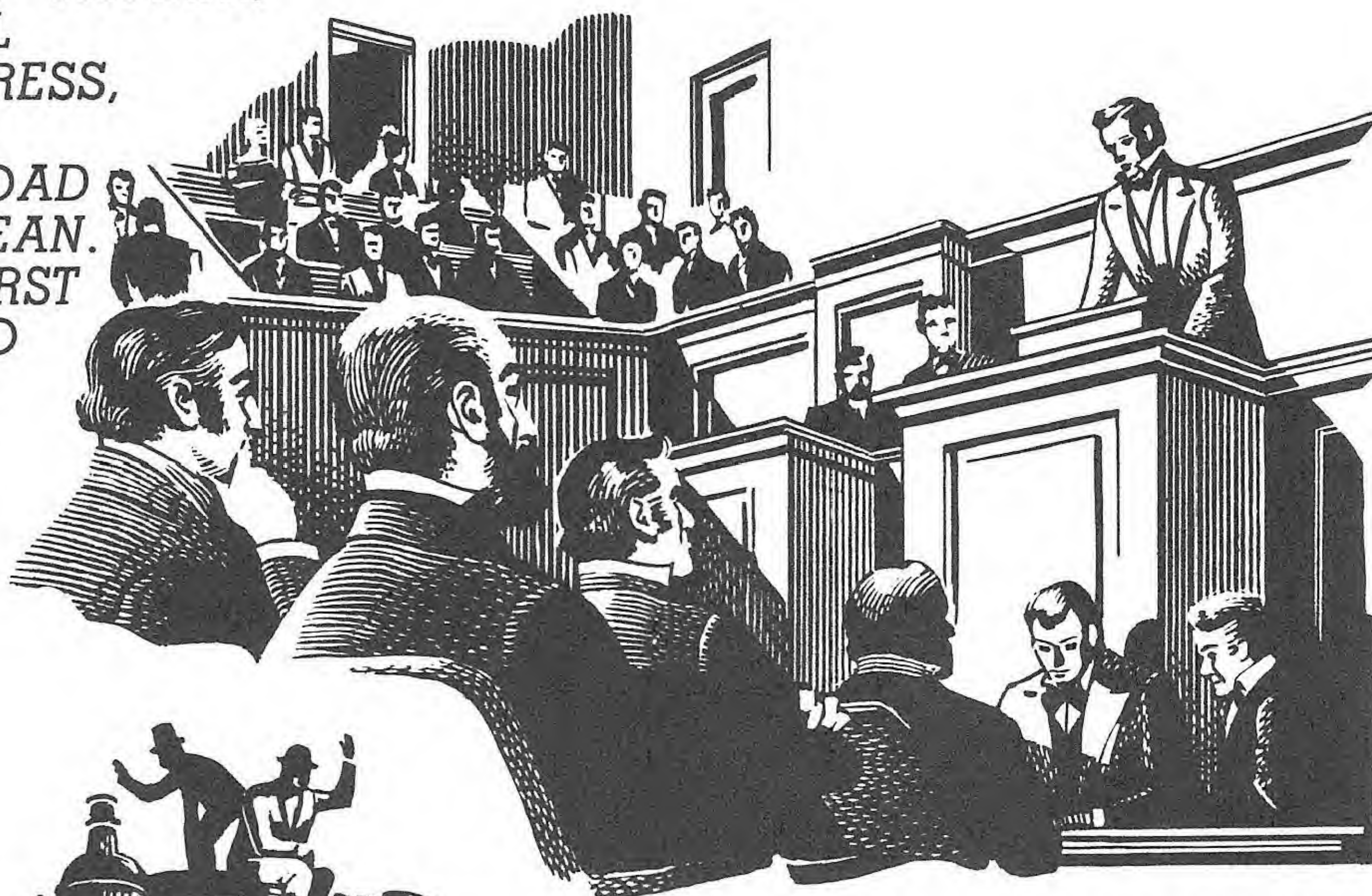
# December

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



FIRST LOCOMOTIVE TO BE  
PLACED IN SCHEDULED  
SERVICE IN AMERICA  
BEGAN RUNNING OUT  
OF CHARLESTON, S. C.,  
DECEMBER 25, 1830.

PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR,  
IN HIS FIRST ANNUAL  
MESSAGE TO CONGRESS,  
DECEMBER 4, 1849,  
PROPOSED A RAILROAD  
TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.  
TAYLOR WAS THE FIRST  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO  
ADVOCATE SUCH A  
PROJECT.



FIRST LOCOMOTIVE  
AND TRAIN WEST  
OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
RIVER MADE ITS  
INITIAL TRIP A  
FEW MILES OUT  
OF ST. LOUIS  
DECEMBER 9, 1852.



# December

## IN RAILROAD HISTORY



IN A NEWSPAPER AD, DECEMBER 10, 1813, OLIVER EVANS OF PHILADELPHIA PROPOSED BUILDING A RAILROAD BETWEEN NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA, GUARANTEEING A TRAIN SPEED OF 12 MILES AN HOUR.



THE HUEY LONG BRIDGE, LONGEST STEEL RAILROAD BRIDGE IN THE UNITED STATES, SPANNING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ABOVE NEW ORLEANS, OPENED FOR TRAFFIC DECEMBER 16, 1935. IT IS 23,235 FEET IN LENGTH.

FIRST RAIL ROUTE LINKING BOSTON AND NEW YORK COMPLETED DECEMBER 29, 1848. ROUTE WAS OVER 5 RAILWAY LINES, BUT ONLY THREE CHANGES OF CARS WERE NECESSARY.

